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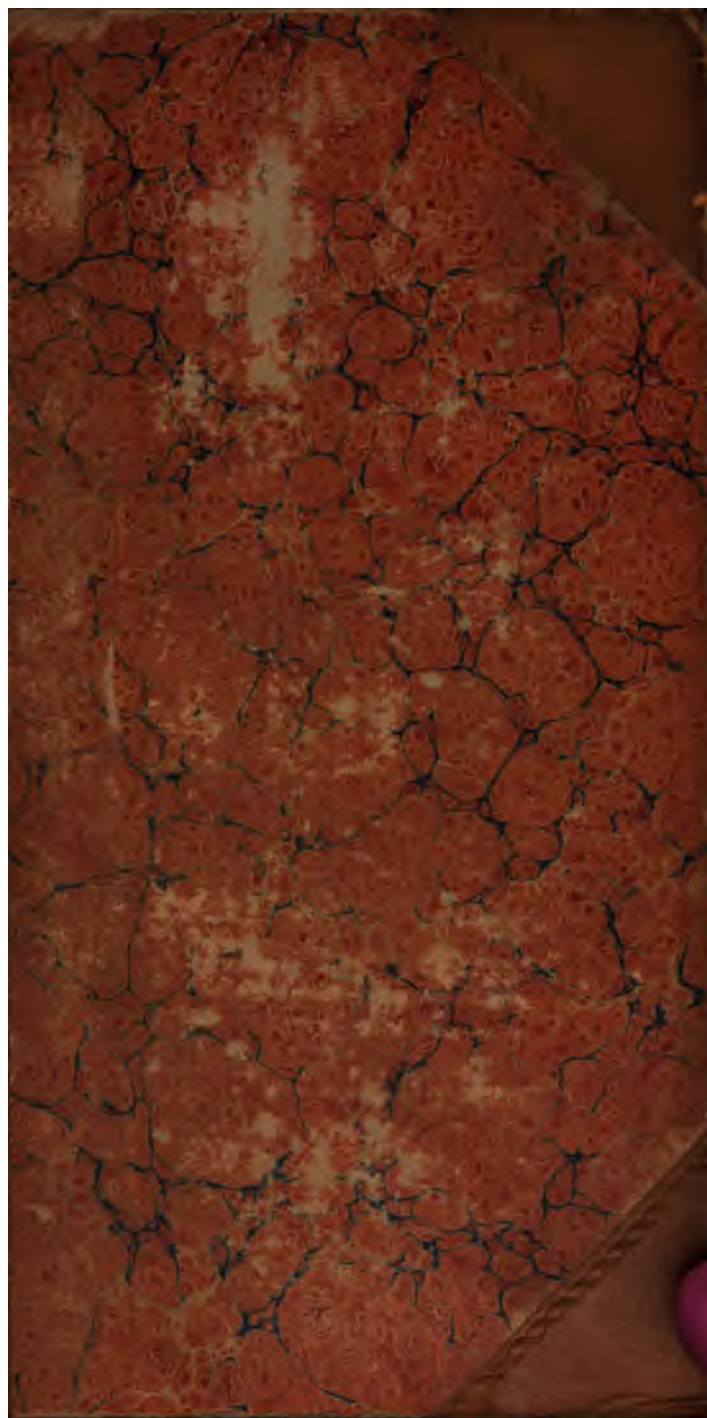
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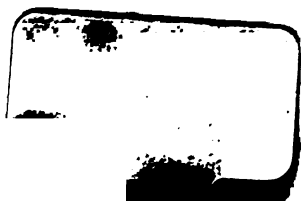
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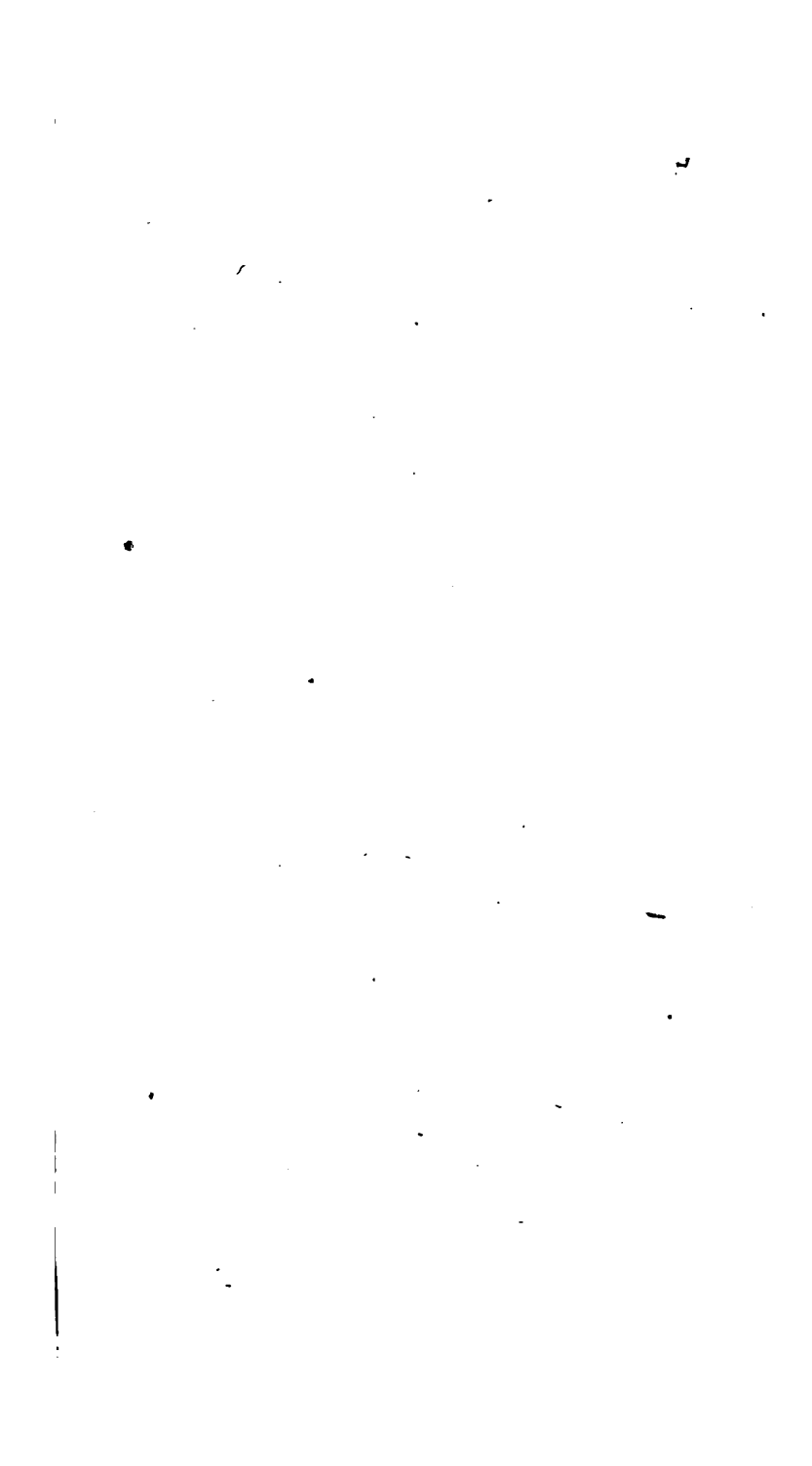
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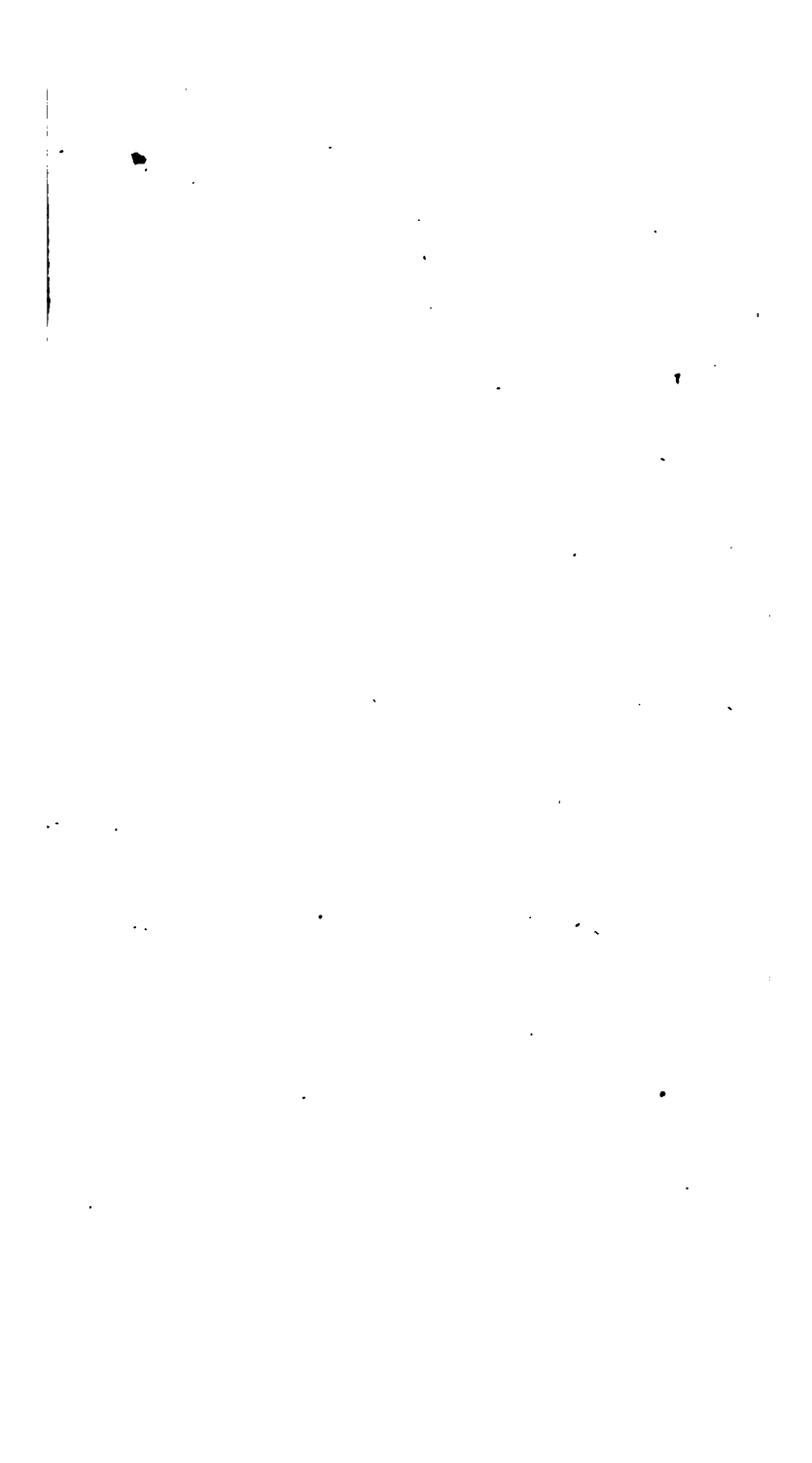












ENGLAND'S

Turner. 1828.

¹⁰⁵
HISTORICAL DIARY,

AND

Imperial Class Book;

CONTAINING THE

MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS

IN THE HISTORIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOMS OF

ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND,

CONNECTED WITH THEIR

GRANDEUR AND PROSPERITY;

EACH ACT OR DEED BEING DETAILED ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF ITS OCCURRENCE; THUS PRESENTING ONE OR MORE EVENTS FOR EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR.

BY A STUDENT OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

Nil falsi audeat, nil veri non audeat dicere.—CICERO.

EMBELLISHED BY

An Elegant Engraving

OF THE

NEW HALL OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

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112

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PREFATORY ADDRESS.

Few publications have proved of greater utility to the rising generation than works entitled Class Books, the extensive circulation of which is a sufficient proof of their intrinsic value. After a due consideration of the subject, the writer feeling as he ought, those patriotic sentiments that constitute the pride of an Englishman, and imbued with zealous love for the prosperity of Church and State, conceived that a Class Book composed of subjects solely connected with the British Empire might prove instructive and highly entertaining. Under this view of the undertaking, he referred to various historians, as well Latin and French as English, and ultimately digested the plan of this work, which comprises a detail of acts and deeds performed in England, Scotland and Ireland, or transacted in foreign parts which have been connected with their grandeur and prosperity, from the earliest period of history to the present time. In order, therefore, to render this task more pointed for the tuition of the youthful mind, he has selected such occurrences as took place on the very day to which they are applied, beginning on the first of January, and terminating the thirty-first of December. By this means the student will acquire a knowledge of the most prominent events that have transpired in the British Empire within the limited space of one year, by perusing the Lesson appropriated for each day; and as every subject is treated in a comprehensive and laconic manner, it cannot fail to be indelibly stamped upon the ripening intellect of youth.

The Class Books already extant, and so deservedly esteemed, consist of subjects culled from various writers; and the ability with which those selections are gleaned has been universally acknowledged. In the

PREFATORY ADDRESS.

present instance, however, the recitals were for the most part written after a careful reference to the necessary authorities, among which we may instance, the venerable Bede, Matthew Paris, Higden, Grafton, Hall, and Hollinshed's Chronicles, Rapin, Tindal, Hume and Smollett's Histories of England, Froissart, Mezeray's and Joinville's Annals of France, as well as Clarendon, Burnet, and various other writers ancient and modern, from whose records our details are selected. In such an undertaking as the present, accuracy is most essential, and every precaution has therefore been taken to avoid error, but in case any thing incorrect should have crept into the work, as no human effort is infallible, care will be taken to make the necessary emendations in a subsequent edition.

The principal aim throughout this undertaking, has been perspicuity, while the writer has strenuously laboured to insert every event worthy record; and, being an ardent admirer of the established Religion and Constitution of England, he confidently trusts that no sentiment will be found elicited that does not prove in unison with the sentiments of a loyal and true born Briton.

ENGLAND'S HISTORICAL DIARY.

JANUARY THE FIRST.

The Knights of the Round Table established by Edward III. at Windsor, &c. 1344.

THE New Year's Day of 1344 stands recorded in English History as the period when the renowned Edward the Third instituted the famous Round Table at Windsor, no doubt in memory of the celebrated Arthur, King of Britain, who, it is pretended, was the first institutor of an Order of Knighthood bearing that name. In those days of prowess in arms and chivalric renown, it is not to be wondered at that so valiant a monarch as Edward should have given every eclat to the martial feeling then prevalent, which was never carried to a higher pitch of enthusiasm. On consulting the best historians, we find that upon the occasion in question, orders were issued for the publication of magnificent tournaments to be celebrated, while a general invitation was given to all persons of distinction, whether foreigners or Englishmen, who were welcomed with unbounded hospitality. When the festival took place, in order to avoid all distinction in rank, the King caused to be erected a sumptuous hall, two hundred feet in diameter, where he feasted all the knightly visitors at a circular table, from whence this institution derived its name.

In alluding to King Arthur, we have remarked, that it is *pretended* he was the original institutor of the Order of

the Knights of the Round Table, because there is so much of the marvellous connected with the history of that British prince, that it is difficult to decide respecting the deeds that characterised his reign. At all events, so early as the period of Henry the Second, we find in the English Historical Library, by Nicholson, page 79, that one of the English bards sang the praises of King Arthur before Henry, giving a hint to the monks of Glastonbury for the discovery of that British King's body; and, continues our authority, if the whole be fairly true, and have nothing of legend in it, *a very great regard is to be had to those historical ballads*. That there is much of fiction in the tales extant concerning Arthur there can be little doubt; we cannot, however, coincide in opinion with some ancient writers, who have affirmed that no such hero ever had existence.

The Irish were proclaimed rebels by the English Parliament, 1642.

Charles the Second was crowned at Scone, in Scotland, upon which occasion he subscribed the Covenant, swearing to promote the same, and firmly establish the Presbyterian religion, 1651.

The Union between Great Britain and Ireland, which had so long occupied the attention of the Legislature, was effected in 1801.

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### JANUARY THE SECOND.

*Execution of Sir John Hotham, 1644-5.—Character of Edward III.*

Sir John Hotham, who had been appointed Governor of Hull, in Yorkshire, at the commencement of the troubles in the reign of Charles the First, refused to open the gates of that town when the King presented himself before it. Having subsequently entered into a correspondence with the Earl of Newcastle and other Royalists, he was brought to a Court Martial, and con-

demned to die ; which sentence was this day put into execution on Tower Hill, in 1644-5. His son, Captain Hotham, having participated in the acts of his father, had suffered the same fate the day preceding.

As there is a dearth of incident for the second of January, and we have so recently had occasion to speak of Edward the Third, we cannot do better than advert to the character of that prince :—

“ The reign of Edward,” says Goldsmith, “ was rather brilliant, than truly serviceable to his subjects. If England, during those shining triumphs on the continent, gained any real advantage, it was only that of having a spirit of elegance and honour diffused among the higher ranks of the people. In all conquests, something is gained in civil life from the people subdued ; and as France was at that time evidently more civilized than England, those imitative islanders, as they were then called, adopted the arts of the people they overcame.”

The government of Edward, however, was far more glorious, in a domestic point of view, than considered in reference to his warlike achievements. His administration of public affairs was characterised by prudence and vigour, as he acquired the love of the nobility and people by a well-tempered display of both. He was affable and obliging, munificent and generous ; and his personal courage was of such a lofty daring as to excite an emulation in his chiefs and the soldiery, that never failed of crowning his arms with the laurels of victory. It must, however, be remembered, that there was much of sound policy in the wars undertaken by this prince, who had reaped experience from the weakness of his father’s character and the direful results that had ensued to himself and the state. The wavering and pusillanimous conduct of Edward the Second had rendered the nobility presumptuous, and it consequently required that the sceptre should be placed in a nervous hand, to reduce them to a sense of what was due to the prerogatives of the crown and the liberty of the subject.

The wars of this prince, though honorable for the

country, were very far from being founded in justice ; the King of Scotland, against whom his arms were directed, was then in his minority, and a brother-in-law ; while the attempt to revive the claim of his grandfather over the Scottish realm was neither generous or characterized by equity.

“ But the glory of the conqueror,” says Hume, “ is so dazzling to the vulgar, and the animosity of nations so extreme, that the fruitless desolation of so fine a part of Europe as France is totally disregarded by us, and never considered as a blemish in the character or conduct of this prince ; and indeed from the unfortunate state of human nature, it will commonly happen, that a sovereign of genius, such as Edward, who usually finds every thing easy in his domestic government, will turn himself towards military enterprizes, where alone he meets opposition, and where he has full exercise for his industry and capacity.”



#### JANUARY THE THIRD.

*Charles the First orders the arrest of the six refractory Members, 1641.*

The high notions entertained by Charles the First of the royal prerogative, were soon rendered manifest after he had mounted the throne ; in which ideas it is generally supposed he was not a little strengthened from the persuasions of his consort Henrietta Maria, whom he espoused two months after his accession to power. The apparent advantages possessed by this prince, at the commencement of his reign, have seldom been equalled ; the kingdom, owing to the pacific disposition of his predecessor was flourishing, and his power strengthened by the close alliance he had cemented with France from his union with the daughter of Henry the Fourth. Unfortunately for this monarch, he had been reared to conceive that the royal prerogative was a pledge from heaven, which it was not within the limits of his power to abrogate, and consequently beyond his duty to abridge in the most trifling degree. Actuated by such senti-

ments, Charles was led to conceive that the popularity he enjoyed would of itself be sufficient to tolerate any measures, however coercive, he might think it expedient to adopt. In order to defend the Palatinate, to which measure he had bound himself during his father's reign, war was declared, when the Commons being applied to, with infinite reluctance voted two subsidies, but as those supplies were found inadequate to support the armament destined in aid of his brother-in-law, he determined to dissolve a Parliament which he found so refractory. After adopting many obnoxious expedients, while the efforts of his arms proved unsuccessful, particularly the attempt made under the command of his favourite, the Duke of Buckingham, for the relief of Rochelle, a third Parliament was convened, as it was necessary that money should be procured. In the opening speech, Charles made known to the House that the Members were summoned to grant supplies, and that in case they refused to support the exigencies of the State, he would have immediate recourse to those means with which God had invested him, to maintain his royal dignity. Instead of being intimidated, Parliament loudly inveighed against the late arbitrary measures of the Crown; claiming immunity from such vexatious proceedings as an inherent right belonging to the subject; which demand they determined to call a Petition of Right, thereby implying privileges which had been previously enjoyed. Charles, who could not be awakened to a sense of the justice of this claim, conceived it was a flagrant encroachment on his prerogative, and therefore adopted every measure he could devise to impede its passing into a law. Finding at length that nothing short of his acquiescence would content Parliament, he repaired to the House of Peers and there satisfied them respecting the *Petition of Right*, by using the customary words, "*Soit fait comme il est désiré*:" "Let it be done as it is desired."

Having thus far succeeded, the Commons then determined to examine with unabating severity every thing connected with the Government, which appeared in any way arbitrary or defective, and as money had been required for the introduction of a thousand German horse,

which troops, it was apprehended, might be used to subvert the liberties of the subject, Parliament resisted the demand as well as the levying supplies on tonnage and poundage, as palpable violations of the liberties of the people, without the consent of Parliament having been previously obtained. The King in consequence came to the resolution of dissolving the Parliament, and therefore just as the question respecting tonnage and poundage was being put to the House, Sir John Finch, the Speaker, rising, informed the Members that he had it in command from his Majesty to adjourn the sittings.

This unlooked-for measure on the part of royalty, excited the utmost indignation, when confusion and uproar were the consequence, during which the Speaker was pushed back into the chair with violence, and there forcibly detained by Hollis and Valentine, while a remonstrance was framed and passed by reiterated shouts, rather than carried by vote in the customary manner. By the King's order, several Members were then committed to prison, and Hollis, Valentine, and Sir John Elliot summoned before the King's Bench, who refusing to appear at the bar of an inferior tribunal, for acts committed in a superior, were condemned to imprisonment and fine, being applauded for their fortitude by the whole kingdom.

During the long intermission of Parliament that ensued, the popular feeling became daily more acrimonious, when Arthur Hazlerig, John Hampden, and Oliver Cromwell, having resolved to abandon their native country, were detained by an Order of Council, which act was followed by the levying of ship money, as it was termed, the same being regarded as an intolerable burthen. Such was the state of affairs, when John Hampden, a wealthy gentleman of Buckinghamshire, refused compliance with the above tax, and resolved to stand a trial. A rate of twenty shillings for his estate had been demanded of him, which he refused to pay, and the case was for twelve days argued in the Exchequer Chamber before all the Judges, when, with the exception of four, they decided against Hampden, who in requital for the loss of his cause, was honoured with the unanimous plaudits of the people.

In 1640, eleven years had transpired without the King's having convened a Parliament, as the refractory spirit evinced by the last had taught him to dread and hate those assemblies. As the resources, however, were exhausted, and large debts due, he at length found himself compelled to summon a fresh Parliament; though he had every cause to be apprehensive of the result; added to which, the rigorous measures pursued by the Crown had wholly alienated from Charles the affections of his Scotch as well as English subjects. The new Parliament was attended with the greatest assiduity, and commenced its operations by striking a most decisive blow; for instead of granting the supplies demanded by the Crown, the Earl of Strafford, First Minister of the King, was arraigned for high treason before the House of Peers. On that occasion, the unfortunate nobleman delivered a most eloquent speech, wherein his innocence was rendered manifest, in support of which the King spoke in his behalf; yet so great was the spirit of vengeance which had lain dormant for eleven years, that Strafford was pronounced guilty by both Houses, when nothing more was required but the Royal Assent to the Bill of Attainder. Charles, who was tenderly attached to the Earl, remained for a time inexorable, when that ill-fated nobleman having by letter to the King requested that his life should be made a sacrifice to effect a reconciliation between his master and his people, such noble devotedness was ill repaid on the part of the King, who consented to sign the fatal Bill, by commission, and Strafford lost his head with the dignified calmness of stoicism and virtue. From that moment, the speakers in Parliament delivered themselves without the least reserve, and the puritanical preachers, who were protected by the Commons, used their utmost endeavours to excite public feeling, while the unrestrained press teemed with publications of the most seditious tendency.

In this state of general ferment, the Commons with great justice attacked two courts which had been established under arbitrary kings, namely, the High Commission Court, and the Court of Star Chamber, both



being abolished by a Bill that passed the two Houses. The one had possessed great power in establishing ecclesiastical affairs, its judges having been arbitrary, and the other had given force to the King's proclamations, severely punishing those who dared transgress them.

The republican spirit in 1641 began to manifest itself, those sentiments being attributed to the tyrannical spirit evinced by majesty, which aimed at nothing less than the entire subversion of the rights of Englishmen. By this means the King's authority was rendered odious, and then commenced the Hierarchy, whereby all the laws previously observed respecting public worship were suspended. The House of Peers, however, refused to sanction that law; and as the majority of the Members of the Upper Chamber continued faithful to the Crown, the Commons exasperated, gave them to understand, that state affairs might be managed without their interference. To further their views, the Members of the Lower House incited the populace against those Lords and Ecclesiastics who continued attached to the royal cause, when not only the Peers and Prelates, but the King himself was grossly insulted at Whitehall. It was at this period the opposite parties had nick-names ascribed to them, which, in popular commotions, uniformly tend to the effusion of blood; the rabble, being denominated by way of reproach, Round Heads, owing to the close manner in which their hair was cut, and the King's party, Cavaliers.

The coercive measures adopted by the Parliament, at length intimidated the Bishops; and therefore to avert the impending storm, they resolved to abandon their seats, when they drew up a protest, wherein it was stated, that as they were by the populace debarred from attending their duty in Parliament, they should absent themselves until the tumults were ended; protesting at the same time against all laws which should be enacted during their absence.

This step was highly satisfactory to the Commons, who, without loss of time, impeached the Bishops of high treason, in consequence of which they were by the Lords excluded from Parliament, and committed to cus-

today. That proved a fatal blow to the cause of royalty, which was, however, soon doomed to experience a more deadly attack from the unthinking conduct of the King himself. The resentment of Charles had been long suppressed; when finding that concessions only tended to render the demands of his enemies more imperious, he could retain his indignation no longer, and therefore commanded Herbert, his Attorney General, to enter an accusation of high treason against the Lord Kimbolton in the Upper House, and Pym, Hampden, Hollis, Sir Arthur Hazlerig, and Strode, in the House of Commons. The articles in question purported that those Members had endeavoured to subvert the fundamental laws and government of the realm, deprive majesty of its regal authority, and impose on his subjects an arbitrary and tyrannical authority, &c. Scarcely were the impeachments issued, than Charles entered upon a measure still more rash and unsupported. On the *third* of January 1641-2, a Serjeant at Arms in the King's name, went to demand the five Members of the House, who was, however, dismissed without receiving any answer of a positive nature; and on the ensuing day the conduct of the King was still more extraordinary, as he entered the House alone, advancing through the hall, while all the Members stood to receive him. The Speaker then withdrawing from the chair, Charles took his place, and looking round for some time, informed the House that he regretted the cause which had led him thither, being come in person to seize the Members he had accused of treason, finding that the House would not surrender them to his Serjeant at Arms. The King then addressing the Speaker, demanded whether the accused were present? when the latter, falling on his knees, answered, that he had neither eyes to see, nor tongue to speak in that place, but as the House should be pleased to direct him, and therefore craved forgiveness that he was able to make no answer. The King then continued for some time longer to observe whether the accused were present, but they had escaped a short time previous to his arrival.

Every incident of the momentous life of Charles the

First being essential to induct the youthful mind to a knowledge of the fundamental principles of the British Constitution ; we have given a cursory view of the leading features of that monarch's reign, until the event that occurred on this third of January, which may be regarded as decisive of the untimely destiny of that prince. In the progress of our volume, the student will find recorded, under different dates, the subsequent prominent acts of this reign, forming in the whole a complete History, in miniature, of the Rebellion.

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JANUARY THE FOURTH.

Arrival of the Pretender at Glames, &c. 1718.

The Pretender arrived at Glames, where he was honorably received, and the following morning proceeded to Dundee. On the seventh he entered Scone, and remained at the palace until the ninth, when he made his public entry into Perth, from which place he returned in the evening to Scone, where he convened a regular Council, performed several acts of state, and among them issued six proclamations, by one of which his coronation was fixed for the 23d instant.

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**JANUARY THE FIFTH.**

*Death of Edward the Confessor.—1066.*

A short time previous to Edward the Confessor's death, which took place on the present day of the year 1066, his attention was particularly engrossed with the idea of dedicating the Cathedral at Westminster, which, together with an adjoining monastery, he had caused to be erected on the spot where an old Church stood that was founded by King Sabert, or, more properly speaking, converted into a place of Christian worship, from the remains of a temple in which the ancient Saxons had sacrificed to Apollo. In order that the ceremony might be performed with the greatest possible solemnity, Edward convened a General Assembly of the States at Lon-

don, but was taken dangerously ill before it broke up. He had previously made a vow to perform a pilgrimage to Rome, but finding it afterwards inconvenient, as well as in opposition to the wishes of his people, who were averse to his quitting the kingdom, he obtained a dispensation from the Papal See, whereby he was absolved from his obligation. Thus circumstanced, conceiving that he could not better expend the sums raised for his journey, than in building the Cathedral and Monastery of Westminster, he founded the same, granting a charter, with the privilege of a sanctuary, and many other valuable exemptions, which were duly confirmed by the Assembly of the States, and the Church, according to Ingulphus, was dedicated to Saint Peter, on the twenty-second of December. This proved the conclusive act of the reign of Edward the Confessor, whose malady had greatly increased before the ceremony of consecration was terminated. The monarch was then confined to his bed, and for the space of three days continued in a delirious state, at the end of which he was restored to reason, when he recommended his Queen, as a virgin, to the good offices of the nobility; he also desired that a provision might be made for his attendants, who had followed him from Normandy, and having directed that his body should be buried in his new Church at Westminster, received the Sacrament, and then resigned his breath in the four-and-twentieth year of his reign.

Notwithstanding the title of Confessor, which has been coupled with the name of this monarch, his actions by no means answered to the sanctity attachable to such a designation, nor his mental qualifications to the dignity of his exterior appearance. Edward was weak, indolent, and irresolute, to which may be attributed, in a great measure, the tranquillity that characterised his reign; for had he, on the contrary, been active in his resentments, the nation must in all probability have been exposed to the horrors of civil war, from the measures he would have openly taken to gratify his vengeance towards Earl Godwin and his race. Such a supposition cannot be deemed unjust, or ill founded, when it is recollected that in order to show, in domestic life, the

antipathy he entertained towards the family of his father-in-law, he wholly abstained from the bed of his wife Editha, which accounts for his saying with his dying breath that he recommended her as a virgin to the good offices of his nobles. In fact, Edward appears to have possessed no natural affections, or indeed any of those sensitive passions that kindle a warm emotion in the human heart. On the other hand, it is but justice to add, that he was wholly divested of pride and ostentation, moderate in his appetites, complacent in his deportment, beneficent to the poor, and rigidly punctual in performing all the offices of religion; on which account he acquired with the multitude the titles of Saint and Confessor, by which he was subsequently canonized. His continence, previously alluded to, and so highly extolled by the monkish writers, appears to have been in a great measure the effect of constitutional frigidity. The prophecies and revelations that have been ascribed to this prince were merely the dreams of fanaticism and superstition; while, as regards his power of curing scrophulous tumours or ulcers by the touch, vulgarly called the King's evil, the sensible and thinking portion of mankind has long felt convinced, that neither Edward, or any of his successors, ever contributed to the recovery of a patient through any inherent personal qualification derived from heaven. With respect to the passive humanity of the Confessor, it will be sufficient to instance one or two simple anecdotes, in order to prove that it was the result of an easy disposition, such traits being frequently more characteristic of human nature than deeds of importance, that often arise from counsel and deliberation.

One day as Edward was reposing on a couch, a page little dreaming that the King was in the apartment, finding an iron chest open, filled his pockets with part of the silver it contained; when, not satisfied with the first booty acquired, he returned to renew the plunder; upon which the prince conceiving, perhaps, that the youth was too unconscionable, very deliberately addressed him thus: "Boy, you had better rest satisfied with what you have already got; for in case Hugolin,

my chamberlain, should come in, you will lose the whole, and be soundly whipped into the bargain." On another occasion, the King being on a hunting party, in which amusement he took infinite delight, a forward peasant chanced to cross the hounds, and completely spoiled the diversion, when riding up to the boor in a great passion, the monarch exclaimed: "By God's mother, fellow, I would be revenged on thee, were it in my power."

Previous to the reign of Edward the Confessor, the counties of Wessex, Mercia, and Northumberland were governed by their own peculiar laws; but he reduced them all into one body, and commanded that they should be observed in common throughout the whole realm of England. They were in consequence called Edward's laws, to distinguish them from those of the Norman Kings, which were introduced subsequent to his reign.




#### JANUARY THE SIXTH.

*Calais surrendered to the French—1558.*

As the Spanish forces had gained a battle at Saint Quintin, that event seemed the precursor of great successes for the allied forces; but an action was soon after performed by the Duke of Guise in the dead time of the winter season, which completely turned the balance in favour of France, and affected, if not the interests, at least the honor of England in the tenderest point. The town of Calais having surrendered to Edward the Third in 1347, had continued upwards of two hundred years under the sway of Britain; was the chief market for wool and other English commodities; and had been so strongly fortified at different periods, that the place was at length deemed impregnable. All those fortifications, however, having been raised previous to the discovery of gunpowder, were incapable of resisting the regular attacks from a battery of cannon, and therefore only enjoyed a nominal reputation for strength, which they were not able to maintain. The famous Admiral Co-

ligny, who then served as a General in the Army of France, had observed to the Duke of Guise, that as Calais was environed by marshes, which were impassable during the winter, except over a dyke guarded by two castles, Saint Agatha, and Newnam bridge; the English had latterly been accustomed to dismiss a great part of the garrison during the winter season, in order to save expence, which troops were recalled at the opening of spring. The Duke of Guise, after duly considering the importance of the place, having taken his precautions with great secrecy and despatch, made a sudden and rapid march upon Calais, and assaulted the fort of Saint Agatha with three thousand arquebusiers. A step so unexpected by the English garrison, which was not in a state to repel the enemy, obliged the British to retreat to the other castle of Newnam Bridge, which they were equally forced to abandon after a short defence, and retreat into the town. While the Duke had been thus occupied by land, he had adopted the precaution of sending a small fleet to close the entrance to the harbour, by which means Calais was completely blockaded by sea and land. The Lord Wentworth, who was then Governor of the town, made a vigorous defence; but the garrison being weak, it was unable to resist a most desperate assault on the part of the French, who effected a lodgement in the castle. On the ensuing night, Lord Wentworth attempted to regain that post, but after the loss of two hundred men found himself compelled to capitulate. Thus in the short space of eight days, the French, under the Duke of Guise, became masters of a town that had continued for such a succession of years under the dominion of the English crown, and in the capture of which Edward the Third had spent eleven months. The loss of Calais excited bitter murmurs throughout England, while Queen Mary in despair, was heard to exclaim: "*When dead the name of Calais will be found engraven upon my heart!*"



## JANUARY THE SEVENTH.

*King Edward the Second deposed, 1327.—Alliance between England and the States General, 1578.*

Edward, who had hoped to find a safe refuge in Wales, was soon discovered and closely pursued by his victorious enemies. As no prospects of assistance presented themselves in that part of his kingdom, he embarked for Ireland, where he was still subjected to his wretched fortune, which seemed resolved to persecute him to the last. After being buffeted about by adverse winds for some time, the vessel was driven back, and the King speedily after found himself in the power of his enemies, who added to the monarch's sufferings, by adopting the most harsh and insulting conduct towards him. The King was then conducted to London, loaded on his route with the reproaches and insults of the people, and on his arrival committed to the Tower. The bitter enemies of the prince very speedily brought forward a string of charges, among which, however, no weightier crimes were proved against him than his incapacity to govern, the lavish conduct exerted towards his favourites, indolence, love of pleasure, and being completely ruled by evil advisers. The result was Edward's deposition, which the Parliament immediately voted, when he was assigned a pension for his support, his son Edward, a youth only fourteen years of age, appointed his successor, and Queen Eleanor, his mother, named Regent during his minority.

On a due consideration of the character of Edward the Second, it is scarcely possible to conceive a man more innocent and unoffending, or less capable of ruling a fierce and turbulent people whom he was destined to govern. His personal incapacity compelled him to place the burthen of ruling upon other shoulders, while an inherent indolence of disposition, and a want of penetration, urged him to select ministers and favourites who were, generally speaking, ill able to perform the duties imposed on them by their stations. The fiery and intractable nobles, though secretly gratified with their monarch's weakness, nevertheless urged that as a plea.



for incessant complaint ; and thus, under pretence of attacking his ministers, they insulted the person of royalty and invaded the King's authority. The impatient and unthinking multitude, wholly unacquainted with the source of their grievances, equally reproached the monarch for all their sufferings, by which means the public disorder was augmented by tumults, insolence, and unrestrained acts of violence.

In all such cases, the effect of the laws, which under a vigorous government is capable of checking the inroads of popular commotion, proved of no avail ; and the power which was insufficient to shield a monarch, was less calculated to afford protection to the subject. From hence arose a total state of disorganization in the Government, and turbulence, anarchy, and confusion reigned at the helm of the state. Thus, according to a writer, when speaking on the subject of Edward's reign : Men, instead of complaining against the manners of the age, and the form of their constitution, which required the most steady and the most skilful hand to conduct them, imputed all errors to the person who had the misfortune to be intrusted with the reins of the empire.

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The first grand Treaty of Alliance between England and the States General was solemnly ratified, that league being further cemented the ensuing year by the Union of Utrecht, which was established in order to support the interests of the Protestant provinces of Holland, namely, Zealand, Friesland, and Utrecht.

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**JANUARY THE EIGHTH.**

*Martyrdom of Laurence Saunders, 1555.—Death of Catherine of Arragon, 1536—Admiral Rodney defeats the Spanish Fleet, commanded by Don Juan de Langara, 1780.*

Laurence Saunders was educated at Eton, and from thence proceeded to King's College, Cambridge, where he continued three years, during which period he improved in knowledge and learning. Upon leaving that Univer-

sity, he returned to his parent, and his mother, who had become a widow with some property, desirous of enriching her son, bound him apprentice to a merchant, named Sir William Chester, who finding the bent of his inclination completely turned to study and religious contemplation, considered it best to cancel his indentures and set him free. Devoted to learning, Saunders shortly after returned to Cambridge, where he considerably added to the knowledge he had acquired of the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew tongues.

At the commencement of King Edward's reign, when the Protestant religion began to flourish, this pious man obtained a license for preaching, and became so much admired that he was appointed to read divinity lectures in the college at Fotheringam, where by his preaching and exemplary mode of life, he made many converts, and completely silenced the bitter invectives of his adversaries. At the period in question, Saunders married, and the college at Fotheringam being dissolved, he was appointed reader in the Minster at Litchfield. Some time after, he acquired a presentation to the benefice of Church Langton, in Leicestershire, from whence he was called to London, in order to take the benefice of All-hallows, Bread-street, in the city, when, having entered upon this new duty, he returned into the country. It was about this time Mary's accession to the crown took place, when Saunders continued to preach at Northampton without troubling himself with state affairs, boldly disseminating his doctrines against Catholicism. The Queen's partisans were highly incensed at his conduct, and he was detained among them as a prisoner, but no law having been infringed by his discourses, they were compelled to dismiss him.

The friends of this zealous Protestant perceiving that he was in much danger, advised him to leave the kingdom, which he refused; when being ultimately withheld from disseminating good doctrines at Church Langton, he returned to London.

On Sunday, October 15th, Saunders being in Allhallows Church, strenuously exhorting his congregation, the Bishop of London sent an officer to demand his at-

tendance. During the interrogatory that ensued, the Bishop was pleased to remark, that from motives of charity he was content to pass over his treason and sedition, until another time, but an heretic he was determined to prove him, as well as all those who taught and believed that the administration of the sacraments, and such orders of the Church were most pure, as approximated nearest to the practice of the primitive church. The Bishop then desired Saunders to write down his tenets concerning transubstantiation, which the latter complied with, saying, "My Lord, you seek my blood, and you shall have it. I pray God that you will be so baptized in the same, that you may hereafter loathe bloodsucking, and become a better man." On being warmly charged with contumacy, the severe replies of Saunders (who accused the Bishop of having formerly endeavoured to gain the favour of Henry the Eighth by publishing a book, wherein he had declared Mary a bastard) so irritated the prelate, that he exclaimed: "Convey that frenzied fool to prison;" in which situation the sufferer continued fifteen months, who in the course of that time sent several letters to Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer, as well as to his wife, and many others. Soon after, Gardiner, the Chancellor, committed Saunders to the Marshalsea, where he was rigorously imprisoned, and at length brought up to be examined before the Queen's Council. After his excommunication and delivery over to the secular power, he was conveyed by the Sheriff of London to the Compter, a prison in his own parish of Bread-street, at which Saunders greatly rejoiced, as he found in a fellow captive, of the name of Cardmaker, a truly good man and a most exemplary Christian. On the 4th of January, Bishop Bonner proceeded to the prison for the purpose of degrading Saunders, and on the following morning the Sheriff of London delivered him over to the Queen's guards, who were appointed to escort him to Coventry, there to be burned. The 8th of January, 1555, this resolute martyr was led to the place of suffering, and when near the stake, one of the officers appointed to see the execution performed, observed to the condemned, that if he would recant his errors, there

was a pardon ready signed for him. He notwithstanding refused, and advancing boldly towards the pile, sunk to the earth, and prayed with great fervor. Saunders then rose up, embraced the stake, and frequently exclaimed: "Welcome, welcome, everlasting life!" The fire being then communicated to the faggots this zealous advocate for the true faith was speedily overwhelmed by the flames and resigned his immortal spirit with all the constancy and fortitude of a primitive martyr.

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Speaking of the death of Catherine of Arragon, Queen of Henry the Eighth, who died on this day, Hall the Chronicler says, p. 218, "And the eighth day of January folowyng dyed the Princes Dowager at Kymbalton, and was buried at Peterborough. Quene Anne (meaning Anne Bolen) ware yelowre for the mourn-yng."

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Sir George Rodney commissioned the Spanish sixty-four gun ship, and named her the Prince William, in compliment to his Royal Highness Prince William Henry, in whose presence she had been captured. This fortunate officer being about four leagues from Cape St. Vincent, discovered the Spanish Fleet under the command of Don Juan de Langara; the particulars of which we shall now give in his own words:—

"At one P. M. the Cape then bearing north four leagues, the Bedford made a signal for the line of battle abreast, and bore down upon them, but before that operation could be well effected, I perceived the enemy was endeavouring to form a line of battle a-head upon the starboard tack, and as day was far advanced, being unwilling to delay the action, at two P. M. I hauled down the signal for the line of battle abreast, and made one for a general chace, the ships to engage as they came up in rotation, and take the lee gage in order to prevent the enemy's retreat into his own ports.

"At four P. M. perceiving the headmost ships very near the enemy, I made the general signal to engage and close, when in a few minutes the four headmost ships began the action, which was returned with great

briskness by the enemy. At forty minutes past four, one of the enemy's line of battle ships blew up with a dreadful explosion, when every soul on board perished ; and at six P. M. one of the Spanish ships struck. The action and pursuit continued, while a constant fire was kept up till two o'clock in the morning, at which time the Monarch, being the headmost of all the enemy's ships, struck to the Sandwich, after receiving one broadside, at which time all firing having ceased, I made the signal to bring to."

The ships taken from the enemy in this victory were the Phoenix of 80 guns, which bore the flag of Admiral Juan de Langara ; the Monarca, the Princessa, and the Diligente, of 70 guns each ; the St. Domingo, of 74, having been blown up during the action. The St. Julian and St. Ingenio, of 70 guns each, also surrendered ; and an officer with some men was put on board one of them ; but these vessels were afterwards driven on shore by the violence of the wind, when the latter, if not both, were unfortunately lost.

The British in this action had only to regret the loss of 32 killed, and 102 wounded.

The Phoenix, Don Juan de Langara's ship, was taken by the Bienfaisant ; but as the small pox raged on board the former ship, Captain Macbride, actuated by principles of humanity, was unwilling to risk the infection being spread among the prisoners. The following is an official account of that transaction.

" About four o'clock we got within reach of the stern chace guns of the enemy, which they fired as we advanced, but to little effect. At a quarter before five, being then about half a cable distant from one of his ships, she began to fire her quarter guns upon her bow, when, by some accident she took fire and blew up. Had that awful event occurred a few minutes later, we must have shared a similar fate ; it was however impossible to avoid the wreck, great part of which fell athwart us ; but we passed through it without sustaining any material damage, though some small pieces fell on board, which wounded three men. The sails and rigging coming in contact with the rain, as a hard shower at the

same instant came on, prevented the fiery matter that hung upon them from doing any damage of consequence. The sea was so agitated, that the decks were inundated by water; and as we sailed through that dreadful chaos at the rate of nine knots an hour, it was impossible to distinguish whether there remained any unfortunate mariners upon the wreck. The ship which had blown up proved to be the *St. Domingo* of 74 guns, having a complement of 600 men. We continued the pursuit, and between eight and nine came up with one of the enemy's ships that had been engaged with the *Defence*, and found her mizen mast gone, and her fire slack; when upon receiving two or three fires from us, the main top mast went over the side. Our mizen top mast however being shot away, and the rigging out, the ship fell off, and we passed her; we notwithstanding managed to get round again, and closed upon her as soon as possible. Thus advancing towards her in a position in which we might have been much annoyed, we were infinitely surprised at receiving no fire, when we kept off and hailed her, but as our heads were different ways, we passed each other before we could receive any reply. On getting round again to the enemy, we hailed her anew, and received for answer, that the Admiral did not intend fighting any more. We then ordered them to strike their ensign, stating that we should send a boat on board, which was immediately done, and shortly after returned, bearing Don Francisco Melgarey, her Captain, from whom we learned it was the *Phoenix* of 80 guns, having 700 men, and that Don Juan de Langara, the commander-in-chief, who had his flag on board, was wounded. What may have been the enemy's real loss we have not as yet been able to ascertain. During the night the weather grew worse, and at break of day the condition of so large a ship, she being a perfect wreck, while no other vessel appeared in sight, and the gale increasing, Captain Macbride felt himself in a very distressing situation, but with great risk he however succeeded in getting about 103 men on board."

The gale then becoming more tremendous, the British

commander was obliged to lay to during the ensuing day and night, when in the morning, the wind having moderated, so as to allow that boats might pass, we ascertained that the small pox raged among the crew of the Phoenix, and as near 700 prisoners were on board the Bienfaisant, Captain Macbride being unwilling to introduce the infection among the latter, was prompted to make the proposal which he inclosed to Admiral Langara, who thankfully accepted the same, and executed its stipulations with the utmost delicacy. The conduct displayed by the enemy on that occasion, convinced Captain Macbride that the idea entertained respecting the honour of the Spanish character was not ill founded, since after the matter was settled, those officers assisted in refitting and navigating the ship to Gibraltar.

The following were the terms stipulated by Captain Macbride, which were sacredly adhered to by the Spanish commander :

That on account of Admiral Langara's gallant defence, Captain Macbride consented that neither officers or men should be removed; but in the event of their falling in with any Spanish or French ships of war, he, the Spanish Admiral, would not suffer Lieutenant Thomas Louis, the British officer on board, to be interrupted in conducting and defending the Phoenix to the last extremity, agreeable to his orders, &c.

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JANUARY THE NINTH.

Funeral of Lord Nelson, 1806.

The body of this gallant commander having lain in state at Greenwich for some days, was on the 8th of January placed on board the state barge with all the solemnity possible, and conveyed to Whitehall. On the ensuing morning, the procession set forwards at eleven o'clock, which advanced in the following order:—

His Royal Highness the Duke of York, as Commander-in-Chief led the line. assisted by the Duke of Cambridge.—A detachment of the 10th light dragoons, and

part of the 79th Highland regiment, the band of the Buffs playing Rule Britannia, with drums muffled.—The 92d regiment, in echelons; with their colours bearing the inscription Egypt, hung with crape, and band playing muffled.—Rest of the 79th regiment, officers wearing black scarfs, with crape attached to the colours, band playing the Dead March in Saul.—The 31st regiment.—A Highland regiment.—Rest of the 14th dragoons, officers wearing black cloaks; trumpets sounding at intervals.—The 11th dragoons.—The Scotch Greys, preceded by trumpets, sounding a dead march.—Horse artillery, with guns and tumbrils.—Marshals on foot to clear the way.—A Messenger of the College of Arms, in mourning, wearing a badge of the College on his shoulders, staff tipped with silver, and furled with sarsnet.—Six conductors in mourning cloaks, with staves, headed by Viscounts' Coronets.—Forty-eight Greenwich pensioners in mourning cloaks, with badges of the crest of the deceased on their shoulders, and black staves in their hands.—Forty-eight sailors of his Majesty's ship Victory, with black neckerchiefs and stockings, and crape in their hats.—The watermen of the defunct in black with their badges.—Drums and fifes.—Drum Major.—Trumpets and Serjeant Trumpeter.—Rouge Croix, Pursuivant at Arms, in a mourning carriage.—The Standard carried in front of a mourning coach, containing a Captain of the Navy, supported by two Lieutenants in full uniforms, black waistcoats, short clothes and stockings.—Trumpets.—Blue Mantle, Pursuivant at Arms, in a mourning carriage.—The Guidon in front of a mourning carriage, containing a Captain and two Lieutenants.—Servants of the deceased in a mourning coach.—Officers of the King's wardrobe in mourning carriages.—Gentlemen and esquires.—Deputations from the London Commercial Companies.—Physicians of the deceased, and Divines in their clerical habits, in carriages.—Chaplains and Secretary of the deceased in mourning coaches.—Trumpets.—Rouge Dragon, Pursuivant at Arms, in a carriage, habited as Blue Mantle.—Banner of the defunct as a Knight of the Bath, in front of a carriage containing a Captain, R.N.,

and two Lieutenants in black.—Officers who attended the corpse as it lay in state at Greenwich, in mourning coaches.—Masters in Chancery.—Serjeants at Law.—Solicitor and Attorney General.—Prime Serjeant.—Judge of the Admiralty.—Knight Marshal.—Knights of the Bath.—Baronets.—A Gentleman Usher carrying a carpet and black velvet cushion to support the trophies in the Church.—Comptroller, Treasurer, and Steward of the Household of the deceased, in mourning cloaks and white staves.—Younger sons of Barons, and Viscounts.—The Judges.—Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer; Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.—Master of the Rolls.—Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench.—Privy Councillors not Peers.—Eldest sons of Barons.—Younger sons of Earls.—Viscounts.—Younger sons of Dukes.—Eldest sons of Marquisses.—Earls.—Eldest sons of Dukes.—Marquisses.—Dukes.—Earl Marshal.—Lord Privy Seal.—Lord President of the Council.—Archbishop of York.—Lord Chancellor.—Archbishop of Canterbury.—Carriages of the Dukes of Sussex, Cambridge, Kent, and Clarence.—A carriage of the Prince of Wales, containing Mr. Sheridan and Col. Leigh.—His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Dukes of Clarence and Kent, and Earl Moira.—Detachments of Horse Guards.—A Herald.—The Great Banner borne in front of a carriage, containing a Captain and two Lieutenants.—Gauntlet and Spurs.—Helm and Crest.—Target and Sword.—Surcoat in front of four mourning coaches, containing Heralds in their habits.—A mourning coach, containing coronet of the deceased, on a black velvet cushion borne by Clarenceux, King at Arms, attended by two Gentlemen Ushers.—Six Lieutenants in two carriages.—The Six Admirals who bore the canopy in two mourning coaches.—Four Admirals who supported the pall in a mourning coach.—THE BODY under a Canopy placed on a Funeral Car, decorated with escutcheons, bannerolls, and emblematical devices. The Car in form of a Man of War, adorned with the flags of the Victory, the whole drawn by six led horses.—Garter, Principal King at Arms, in a carriage with his

sceptre, attended by two Gentlemen Usher.—The Chief Mourner in a long mourning cloak, with his two supporters, being Admirals, and train-bearer a Captain R. N., all in black cloaks over full uniforms.—Six assistant mourners, being Admirals, in cloaks.—Norroy, King at Arms.—The Banner of Emblems, in front of a mourning coach, containing a Captain and two Lieutenants, R. N.—Relatives of the deceased.—Officers of the Navy and Army, according to their ranks.—In all 184 carriages of different descriptions.

The Funeral of the Hero who had performed so many exploits for the glory of his country, was attended by the seven sons of his Sovereign, the chief nobility, gentry, and merchants of the empire, and by a countless multitude of all classes, who manifested a universal and unmixed sense of heartfelt grief. It would be superfluous to add that this renowned bulwark of his native land—the unmatched heir of imperishable fame, shall live to posterity, for while the name of Nelson is remembered, we shall never stand in need of heroes animated by kindred zeal, and ardently desirous of imitating his noble example.



JANUARY THE TENTH.

Death of Archbishop Laud, 1645.—Capture of the Cape of Good Hope, 1806.

The impeachment of the unfortunate Earl of Strafford was followed by those of Finch, the Lord Keeper, who effected his escape to Holland, and Sir Francis Wyndebank, who sought refuge in France. To those must also be added the impeachment of Archbishop Laud, who after a deliberation of half an hour was deemed sufficiently culpable by the Commons to incur that accusation, and immediately ordered into custody. The Archbishop was charged with an act of no less magnitude than high treason, in endeavouring to subvert the fundamental laws of the realm, and of various other high crimes and misdemeanours, among which was that of Popery vehemently urged against him, but completely

belied by the tenor of his life, and the manner in which he met the fate that awaited him. Laud spoke for several hours in his defence with a courage and perspicuity that appeared to result from a consciousness of integrity and unsullied innocence. The Lords, by whom he was judged, seemed inclined to acquit him ; but the Lower House in which his accusation had originated, finding that his condemnation was by no means certain, hastily passed an ordinance commanding his execution ; and, although terrified, the Lords continued obstinate in according their consent. On this important question only seven peers voted, all the rest remaining absent either from shame or fear of danger. On being conducted from the Tower, where the Archbishop had been confined, to the scaffold erected on Tower Hill, the unfortunate Laud, without manifesting the least symptom of terror, and in his accustomed tone of delivery from the pulpit, made a long speech to the assembled multitude, informing his hearers that he had communed with his own heart, and returned thanks to the Omnipotent he found no sins there meriting the fate which awaited him. He then added, that the King, his master, had been belied by many, as labouring for the introduction of Popery, whereas he believed him to be as sound a Protestant as any man in the realm, and that in respect to Parliaments, though he had been averse to the conduct of one or two, his Majesty had never designed to alter the laws of his country, or subvert the tenets of Protestantism.

After spending a few minutes in devout prayer, this ill-fated divine committed his neck to the block, when the executioner at one blow severed his head from his body. The death of Laud was followed by an immediate and total change in the Church ceremonies ; the Liturgy being by a public act abolished the very day of his execution, as if he had been the only impediment to its previous alteration. Thus was the Church of England brought to a conformity with the puritanical establishment, the citizens of London and the Scotch army offering public thanksgiving for the happy change.

The character of Archbishop Laud may be given in

few words. In regard to ecclesiastical affairs, he was what the Earl of Strafford proved in matters of state, namely, rigid, severe, punctual, and truly industrious. The zeal of this churchman in forwarding the interests of true religion was unrelenting, while he proved a most inveterate stickler for all its forms, as established in the reign of Elizabeth. So rigid was he on this head, that his proceedings impartially viewed, were certainly very imprudent, and, in some instances, rather severe; it must, however, be taken into consideration that the conduct of the furious bigots who opposed him, would have been sufficient to excite resentment in the most quiescent of spirits.

Sir David Baird and Sir Home Popham took possession of the Cape of Good Hope, a settlement of the greatest importance to England, owing to the facilities which it affords at all times of throwing a speedy reinforcement of seasoned troops into India, which never can be effectually done from England. The Cape, which first fell into the hands of the Dutch, continued subject to them for 150 years, till it surrendered by capitulation to the British arms, under General Sir Alured Clark and Admiral Elphinstone, in 1795. The Cape was restored to the Dutch by the Treaty of Amiens, and then recaptured as above, since which period it has uniformly continued under the dominion of Great Britain.

JANUARY THE ELEVENTH.

*Death of Roger, otherwise called Friar Bacon, 1294.
Capture of Trincomale, 1782.*

Roger Bacon was born near Ilchester, in Somersetshire, of respectable parents, in the year 1214. He began his literary career at Oxford; and thence removed to the University of Paris, which was then the grand centre of science and of learning. There the lustre of his talents began to be distinguished; and his progress in the sciences rendered him the ornament of that noble institution, and gained him some very valuable friends.

He was particularly caressed by his amiable and learned countryman, Robert Grossthead, afterwards Bishop of Lincoln, whose patronage at once gave and reflected honor.

About the twenty-sixth year of his age having acquired all the learning of the times only to detect its fallacy, and substitute something better in its room, Bacon returned to Oxford, and there assumed the habit of the Franciscan order. The leisure attendant on a monastic life, allowed him to devote his time in prosecuting researches in experimental philosophy, his favorite study, in which he expended considerable sums, and effected very important discoveries. He thus at once emancipated himself from the trammels of the existing system, pierced the subtleties of scholastic divinity, with an intuitive perspicacity, and showed so little respect for the reigning absurdities, though rendered venerable by antiquity, that he boldly declared the whole works of Aristotle were fit only to be burnt.

Bacon, by his extraordinary talents, and astonishing progress in the sciences, which were then concealed from the rest of the world, or only known to a distinguished few, could not fail to awaken envy, the constant attendant on real worth and genius; and the illiterate fraternity, having neither sense or diligence sufficient to keep pace with his vast discoveries, and unable to brook his intellectual superiority, spread among the vulgar a ridiculous notion that Friar Bacon maintained an intercourse with evil spirits. Under that absurd pretence which only tends to convince us how much his attainments were above the level of common understandings, he was restrained from reading lectures; his writings were confined to his convent; and finally, when he had reached his sixty-fourth year, he was imprisoned in his cell.

Still, however, being indulged with the use of books, Bacon did not suffer his mind to be diverted from the great object of his enquiries; but extended his knowledge, corrected his former labours, and augmented them by some new and curious disquisitions. His *Opus Majus*, or *Great Work*, still extant, had been prepared

at the request of Pope Clement the Fourth ; and when, after lying ten years in confinement, he addressed a treatise to Pope Nicholas the Fourth, on the means of avoiding the infirmities incidental to old age, and importuned that pontiff for his release ; the result of that application is unknown, though it certainly was not immediately attended to. In the sequel, however, being supported by several persons of distinction, Bacon was ultimately set free, and spent the remainder of his days in tranquillity, in the college of his order at Oxford, where he died in the eightieth year of his age, on the 11th of January, 1294.

Friar Bacon was incomparably the greatest philosopher of his time, and in many respects may stand in competition with the most eminent men of more enlightened ages. His writings are elegant, terse, and nervous ; and adorned with such exquisite observations on nature, that he may be said to have unlocked her treasury. In chemistry he stood unrivalled ; and according to Dr. Frend, the origin of almost every useful invention and operation which modern practice has adopted in that science, may be traced in his various works. He describes the preparation of gunpowder in the most precise terms. Nevertheless, the Jesuit Bartholomeus Schwartz, who lived several ages after, must doubtless be allowed the honor or disgrace of pointing out the destructive purposes to which that inflammable composition may be applied.

From an attentive perusal of the works of this great luminary, it will be found that Bacon ranked an excellent linguist and an erudite grammarian ; that he was well versed in the theory and practice of perspective ; understood the use and manufacture of convex and concave glasses ; that the camera obscura, the burning glass, and the telescope, were familiar to him, that he was intimately acquainted with geography and astronomy ; fully aware of the great error existing in the calendar, assigned the cause, and proposed the remedy ; that he was an adept in chemistry, and possessed great knowledge of the healing art : in fine, that he ranked

an able mathematician, an expert mechanic, a sound logician, and a rational theologist.

Vice Admiral Sir Edward Hughes having sailed from Negapatnam to effect the reduction of the Dutch settlement of Trincomale in the island of Ceylon, anchored in the bay three miles from the fort. He then disembarked his troops, and having formed on the beach, advanced to the attack of the fort, of which he made himself master the same night. On the 8th January, Sir Hector Monro proceeded for Ostenburgh fortress, where the enemy had a post, and early next morning the Admiral sent a letter of summons to the Governor, who returned for answer that he would defend himself to the last extremity. The requisite dispositions were in consequence made, and on the 11th, the storming party advanced to the attack, when the enemy was driven from his works, and the British entered the fort. By that means the vessels in the harbour were surrendered, the loss having been very inconsiderable on both sides, and on the ensuing day the English became quiet possessors of Trincomale.

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**JANUARY THE TWELFTH.**

*Elizabeth's Supremacy confirmed by Parliament, 1563.*  
—*Capture of the Island of Cayenne, 1809.*

The second Parliament of Elizabeth met, when the famous act was passed confirming her complete supremacy over all estates Ecclesiastical and Temporal of the realm of England.

“ On the 4th of January,” says Captain Yeo, “ it was determined by Lieutenant-Colonel Mansel Marques and myself, to make a descent on the east side of the Island of Cayenne. Accordingly all the troops were embarked on board the small vessels, amounting to 550 men, with 80 seamen and marines from the *Constance*, and a party of marines from the *Voador* and *Infante* brigs.

“ On the morning of the 6th, all dropt into the mouth

of the river, and in the evening I proceeded with ten canoes, and about 250 men, for the purpose of endeavouring to gain possession of two batteries; the one Fort Diamant, which commands the entrance of the river Mahuree; the other, Grand Cane, guarding the great road to the town of Cayenne. The vessels with the remainder of the troops, I intrusted to Captain Salgado, of the *Voador*, with orders to follow me after dusk, anchor in the mouth of the river Mahuree, and there wait until I gained the before-mentioned batteries; when, on my making the signal agreed on, he was to enter the river and disembark with all possible despatch. I attained Point Mahuree at three o'clock next morning, with only five canoes, as the others, being heavy, could not keep up. We then landed in a bay, halfway between the two batteries, the surge running so high that our boats soon went to pieces. I then ordered Major Joaquim Manoel Pinto, with a detachment of Portuguese troops, to proceed to the left, and take Grand Cane; while myself, accompanied by Lieutenants Mulcaster, Blyth, and Read (of the Royal Marines); Messrs. Savary, Williams, Taylor, Forder, and Irwin, proceeded to the right, with a party of the *Confiance*, to take Fort Diamant, which was soon in our possession, mounting two twenty-four and one brass nine pounder, and garrisoned by fifty men.

"The entrance to the river being thus in our possession, the signal agreed on was made, and by noon all the forces were disembarked. At the same time I received information that General Victor Hugues had quitted Cayenne, at the head of a thousand troops, to dispossess us of the posts we had captured. Our force being too small to be divided, and as the distance between the two posts was great, and only twelve miles from Cayenne, it was determined to dismantle Fort Diamant, and collect all our troops at Grand Cane. I therefore left my first Lieutenant, Mr. Mulcaster, with a party from the *Confiance*, to perform that service, after which he was to rejoin me. On arriving at Grand Cane, I perceived two other batteries, about a mile up the river, on the opposite banks, and within half gun-shot



of each other; the one on the right shore called Freo, on an eminence commanding the creek leading to Cayenne; the other on the opposite side, at the entrance of the creek leading to the house and plantation of General Victor Hugues, and evidently erected for no other purpose than its defence. At three o'clock I anchored the Lion and Vinganza cutters abreast of those forts, upon which a smart action commenced on both sides for an hour. Finding, however, that the enemy's metal and position was so superior to our own, the cutters having only four-pounders, and many of our brave fellows falling from the incessant shower of grape shot from the enemy, I determined to storm the batteries. I directed Mr. Savory (the Purser) to accompany a party of Portuguese, in order to effect a landing at General Hugues' battery, while, at the same time, I proceeded in person, accompanied by Lieutenant Blyth, my gig's crew, and a party of Portuguese troops to that of Freo. Although both parties had to land in front of the muzzles of the guns, which kept up a continual fire of grape shot and musketry, the cool bravery of the men soon carried the positions, and put the enemy to flight, when I found each fort mounted two brass nine-pounders, and had been supported by fifty men. This service was scarcely accomplished, before the French troops from Cayenne attacked the Colonel at Grand Cane. Our force being then much dispersed, I, without waiting an instant, ordered every soul to the boats, and immediately proceeded to the assistance of the Colonel, who, with his small force, had long withstood the enemy: when, after a smart action of three hours, the French retreated to Cayenne. At the same time 250 of the enemy appeared before Fort Diamant; but perceiving Lieutenant Mulcaster prepared to resist them, and imagining his force much greater than it really was, they, on hearing the defeat of their leader, followed his example by retreating. There yet remained the strongest post of the enemy to be captured, namely, the private dwelling-house of General Victor Hugues. That commander had, independent of the fort abovementioned, planted before his mansion a field-piece and a swivel, together with a

hundred of his best troops. The building was situated on the main road, between two and three miles in the interior, at the end of an avenue the same length from the river, on the right of which is a thick wood, and on the left, the creek Fouille. I have also to remark, that there was nothing near appertaining to Government, or erected for the defence of the colony. On the morning of the 8th, I proceeded, accompanied by Lieutenant Mulcaster, Messrs. Savory and Forder, some seamen and marines of the *Constance*, and a party of the Portuguese troops, training a field-piece, to take the said post. My only object, however, was to make the troops prisoners, by which the garrison of Cayenne would become greatly weakened. I, therefore, despatched Lieutenant Mulcaster, in my gig, with a flag of truce, in order to acquaint the officer in command, that my sole wish was to possess myself of the post, for which I had sufficient force, and, though I might lose some men in the action, there could be no doubt as to the result. I further requested, for the sake of humanity, that he would not attempt to defend a situation so untenable, as I was determined, in case he made a useless resistance, not to preserve a private habitation; against which, I gave him my honour that no harm was intended; I should consider it as a fortress, and would level the structure with the ground. The enemy's advanced forces allowed the flag of truce to approach within a boat's length, when they fired two volleys, and retreated. I then landed; but reflecting it was possible that such an outrage had been committed from the ignorance of an inferior officer, I despatched Lieutenant Mulcaster a second time; but, on his approaching the house, they discharged the field-piece at him. Finding all communication in that way ineffectual, yet wishing to preserve the private property of a general officer, who was perhaps ignorant and innocent of his subaltern's conduct, I despatched one of the General's slaves to the officer in command, bearing the same message, who returned with an answer, that any thing I had to communicate must be in writing: at the same time his field-piece was discharged, as a signal to his troops, who were in ambush on our right in the

wood, directing them to fire, while he continued to keep up a steady discharge from his field-piece, at the house. It was my intention to have advanced with my piece of ordnance ; but finding the enemy had dug several fosses in the road, and the wood being lined with musketeers, not a man of whom we could discern, I ordered our gun to be thrown into a fosse, when the troops, vociferating loud cheers, advanced with pike and bayonet, and took the enemy's cannon. The French then retreated into the house, and kept up a smart discharge from the windows ; but on our entering, they decamped through the back premises into the wood, keeping up a brisk fire as they retreated.

“ Every thing was immediately demolished, with the exception of the dwellings of the slaves. Having shortly after received intimation that four hundred of the enemy were about to take possession of Beauregard Plain, on an eminence commanding the several roads to and from Cayenne, it was determined between the Lieutenant-Colonel and myself, to be beforehand with our foes, and we marched our whole force there direct. We gained that situation from the enemy on the 9th, and on the 10th, Lieutenant Mulcaster and a Portuguese officer (Lieutenant Bernardo Mekillis) were sent into the town, with a summons to the General. In the evening those officers returned, accompanied by Victor Hugues's Aid-du-Camp, requesting an armistice for twenty-four hours, in order to arrange the articles of capitulation. The proposals having been acceded to, and hostages exchanged, on the 11th, the Lieutenant-Colonel and myself met the General, when we partly arranged the articles. A second conference on the morning of the 12th finally decided them ; and on the 14th, the Portuguese troops, with the British seamen and marines, marched into Cayenne, and took possession of the town. The enemy, amounting to 400 troops, laid down their arms on the parade, and were immediately embarked on board the several vessels belonging to the expedition ; while, at the same time, the militia, amounting to 600 men, together with 200 blacks, who had been incorporated with the regular forces, delivered up their arms.”

## JANUARY THE THIRTEENTH.

*Death of Ethelwolf, 857.—Richard the First and Philip Augustus, of France, agree to sail for the Holy Land, 1190.*

Ethelwolf was eldest son of the famous Egbert, seventeenth king of the West Saxons, who laid the foundation of the undivided monarchy of England, and succeeded his father, notwithstanding he was at the time of his death Bishop of Winchester. In 846, Ethelwolf ordained that tythes should be collected, and exempted the ecclesiastics from all regal tributes. In 847 he performed a journey to Rome, where he confirmed the grant of Peter-pence, and agreed to pay the Pontiff 300 marks per annum. In 856, Ethelbald, the son of this prince, compelled his father to divide with him the sovereignty of England, which devolved to Ethelbald this 13th of January, being the anniversary of Ethelwolf's death, who was buried at Winchester.

The first place of rendezvous appointed for the English and French armies, was the plain of Vezelay, on the borders of Burgundy; at which spot, when Richard and Philip arrived, they found that their forces amounted to a hundred thousand fighting men. The troops were all ardent in the cause, consisting of the flower of the military of both dominions, and provided with all the necessary implements and accoutrements of war. At Vezelay the monarchs of England and France entered into the most solemn engagements of mutual support; and, having determined to conduct their armies to the Holy Land by sea, separated; the one for Genoa, and the other for Marseilles, with a view of meeting the fleets that had been appointed to attend them at those respective stations. Richard the First, who was well stored with men, had adopted every expedient to raise money. To Hugh, Bishop of Durham, he sold, for the period of his natural life, the county of Northumberland, observing, at the time, that he had created a new earl from an old bishop. Berwick and Roxburgh produced ten thousand pounds, being sold to the King of Scotland,

Richard declaring that he would barter the city of London (if any one could buy it) rather than be burthensome to his subjects in the levying of money. He, however continued, notwithstanding his apparent disinterestedness, to have recourse to many artifices, in order to obtain supplies; and, among other expedients, pretending that the great seal was lost, he caused a new one to be made, whereby his subjects were compelled to have all the instruments that appertained to the Crown new sealed, which subterfuge certainly left a *very sensible* IMPRESSION upon *their purses*.

Numerous exactions were also practised upon people of all ranks and stations in life; menaces, promises, expostulation; in short, every artifice was used to inveigle the resolute, frighten the timid, and allure the avaricious. A very zealous ecclesiastic, of those times, was so far emboldened as to remonstrate against the conduct of Richard, advising him to cast off his three favourite daughters, *Pride*, *Avarice*, and *Sensuality*: To which the monarch pithily made answer:—"You counsel aright, my friend; and I have already provided husbands for them all. My *Pride* I give to the *Templars*; my *Avarice* to the *Monks*; and, as for my *Sensuality*, the *Clergy* may share that among themselves."

We shall now quote Fuller, in his History of the Holy War, who, at page 118, expresses himself to the following effect: Thus, having settled matters at home, he (Richard) set forth with many of our nation, among whom were Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Wishert, Bishop of Salisbury; Robert, Earl of Leicester; Ralph de Glanville, late Chief Justice of England; Richard de Clune, Walter de Kime, &c. The Bishops of Durham and Norwich, however, received a dispensation from the vow they had made to join the Crusaders.

At Tours, the English monarch took his pilgrim's scrip and staff from the archbishop, when the staff accidentally breaking, that circumstance was construed into an evil omen; and the falling of the bridge of Lyons as Richard and Philip were passing over the same, was equally considered, in those days of superstition and ignorance, as a token of ill success, from which many

persons prognosticated the ultimate disunion that took place between those famous potentates.

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**JANUARY THE FOURTEENTH.**

*The Duke of Norfolk brought to Trial, 1572.*

The Duke of Norfolk was the only peer in the reign of Elizabeth, invested with the highest title enjoyed by the nobility of England; and the qualifications of his mind were in all respects conformable with his lofty station. His beneficence, generosity, and affable behaviour, endeared him to the multitude; notwithstanding which, his unassuming conduct had never rendered him an object of suspicion to his wary and lynx-eyed mistress. In the year 1568, the Duke was a widower; and being, from his age, a very suitable match for Mary queen of Scots, the personal attractions of that princess combining with his own interests, made him desirous of a union; previous to which, however, he deemed the consent of Elizabeth as essentially necessary to forward his views. Unfortunately the Duke, although he made the nobility acquainted with his intention, never had the courage to confess himself openly to the Queen of England; but, on the contrary, took every opportunity of contradicting the surmises that were afloat, and even spoke in terms of contempt of Mary, in presence of Elizabeth, affirming that the revenues arising from his own estates more than counterbalanced those of the Scottish realm; and that when amusing himself in his tennis-court at Norwich, he was far more a monarch than a Scottish king. Such duplicity, practised towards a person of Elizabeth's perspicuity, tended only to augment and inflame her suspicions; when, finding that no great credit was given to his assertions, Norfolk quitted the court in disgust. The Duke, after sober reflection, conceiving that he had adopted a rash step, resolved to return, under the hope of insuring the queen's pardon and confidence; but when on his way to London, he was arrested by a messenger from court, and speedily committed to the Tower, under the custody of Sir Henry Nevil.

The Duke of Norfolk was too much beloved by his adherents in the north, to suffer confinement without some attempt being made to release him, for which purpose the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland prepared for rebellion. The attempts of those nobles were however defeated; and the Duke, in whose behalf they had entered the field, having tendered every aid possible, to check such popular rising, and assist Elizabeth, she was so satisfied with his conduct, that he was released from imprisonment, and allowed to return home, after a promise had been exacted from him, that he would proceed no further in his pretensions to the queen of Scotland.

The confidence thus manifested by Elizabeth, proved ultimately fatal to that gallant but designing nobleman, who had scarcely been at liberty one year ere new projects were hatched by the enemies of the Queen of England and the reformed religion, among whom was Rodolphi, employed by the Romish See, and the Bishop of Ross, Mary's minister at the Court of England. By those two individuals it was planned, that the Duke should renew his pretensions to the Scottish queen, whereto it appears he was greatly incited from real passion for her person; and, on that account, more willingly gave into their views. Thus, from having been only ambitious in the onset, he terminated by becoming criminal.

It was mutually agreed, that the Duke should espouse all the interests of Mary, while Spain was to assist his enterprise by sending a body of six thousand foot and four thousand horse, commanded by the Duke of Alva, to assist him as soon as every thing should be in readiness to strike the blow. This scheme was carried on with so much precaution as to escape for a length of time the vigilance of Elizabeth and her secretary, Lord Burleigh, being only brought to light by Norfolk sending a sum of money to the Lord Herries, one of Mary's adherents in Scotland, without entrusting his messenger with the amount, who, finding that the bag, by its weight, must contain more specie than had been specified by his employer, began to surmise some hidden plot,

and conveyed the gold, with the Duke's letter, to the Secretary of State. The wary Cecil went privily to work, and, by various artifices, gained an ample confession from the domestics of Norfolk; when the Bishop of Ross, finding his guilt completely discovered, freely confirmed their testimony. The Duke was, in consequence, sent to the Tower, and ordered to prepare for immediate trial; when a jury of twenty-five peers unanimously condemned him to the block, and, four months after, Elizabeth, though reluctantly, signed the warrant for his executions.

This nobleman met his fate with great calmness and unshaken constancy; and, although he exculpated himself from any disloyal intention towards the Queen's authority, he freely confessed the justice of the sentence by which he was condemned to suffer.

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**JANUARY THE FIFTEENTH.**

*Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, 1559.—The Scotch invade England, 1644.*

This renowned princess to whom England is so much indebted for her prosperity in Church and State was inaugurated at Westminster, by the Bishop of Carlisle, that ecclesiastic having been the only church dignitary who could be prevailed upon to place the diadem on her head. This circumstance originated in the opposite sentiments cherished by the clergy, who having followed the tenets of Catholicism under the reign of Mary, could not be led to assume a different persuasion when her Protestant sister came to the throne. Nothing could exceed the joy that was diffused among the people, upon the accession of this princess, who was at Hatfield, when informed of her predecessor's death; from which place hastening to London, she was received by the multitude with universal acclamations.

The virgin monarch, as some historians have called her, upon entering the Tower, according to custom, could not refrain from remarking on the difference of her present and former fortunes, when she had been



despatched thither as a prisoner, and from the walls of which fortress she had so narrowly escaped. Scarcely had the Queen been proclaimed, ere Philip, the widower of her sister Mary, who had ever testified a partiality in favor of Elizabeth, ordered his ambassador in London, the Duke of Feria, to make her proposals of marriage from his master. What political motives Elizabeth might have imbibed against such a union, are not mentioned ; it is however certain that she neither liked the person or the religion of her admirer, added to which she was willing at once to enjoy the pleasures of independence, and the vanity of receiving numerous solicitations. But while such were her views, she returned the Spanish monarch a very obliging answer ; and he still retained such hopes of success, as to send a messenger to Rome, with orders to solicit a papal dispensation.

After a long and glorious career, during which the Queen uniformly preserved her independence, notwithstanding the influence of Leicester and Essex, she was nevertheless fated to own the predominating influence of passion, after condemning the latter favorite to the block. With the death of the Earl of Essex, all Elizabeth's pleasures seemed to expire ; she afterwards went through the routine of public business merely from habit. She no longer enjoyed satisfaction, and in the end fell into a profound melancholy, which all the advantages of her high station, and the glories of a prosperous reign were unable to remove. It was then Elizabeth discovered the treachery and falsehood of the Countess of Nottingham, who, on her death bed sent for the Queen, and informed her of the fatal circumstance of a ring she had neglected to deliver, upon which hung the destiny of the ill-fated Essex. That information served only to awaken a passion the Queen had vainly endeavoured to suppress ; she shook the dying Countess in her bed, crying out " That God might pardon her, but that she never would." and then breaking from her, resigned herself to the dictates of fixed despair. From that moment she refused food and sustenance ; continuing silent, and gloomy, sighs and groans

were the only vent she gave to her despondence, and she remained for ten days and nights upon the carpet, reclining upon cushions which her maids provided for that purpose.

Perhaps the faculties of her mind were impaired by long and violent exercise; perhaps she reflected with remorse upon some past actions of her life, or felt but too strongly the decays of nature and the approaches of dissolution. She saw her courtiers remitting in their assiduity towards her for the purpose of paying court to her successor, when such a concurrence of causes being more than sufficient to destroy the remains of her constitution, she found that her end was visibly approaching. Feeling a perpetual heat in her stomach attended by an unquenchable thirst, Elizabeth drank without ceasing, but pertinaciously refused the assistance of her physicians. Her distemper gaining ground, Cecil, and the Lord Admiral, desired to know her sentiments with regard to the succession; to which she replied, that as the crown of England had always been held by kings, it ought not to devolve upon any inferior character, and that her immediate heir was the king of Scotland. Being then advised by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to fix her hopes upon God, she replied that her thoughts did not in the least wander from him. Her voice soon after left her, when she fell into a lethargic slumber, that continued some hours, and expired gently, without uttering a groan, in the seventieth year of her age, and the forty-fifth of her reign.

The character of this extraordinary Queen differed with her circumstances; in the beginning she was moderate and humble; towards the latter end of her reign haughty and severe; but ever prudent, active, and discerning; and she procured for her subjects that happiness which was not entirely felt by those about her. She was indebted for her good fortune to the choice of her ministers, who were excellent; but it was owing to her indiscretion that the favourites, who were more immediately chosen by herself, were unworthy. Though possessed of excellent sense, Elizabeth had not sufficient discernment to discover that she wanted beauty,

and to flatter her charms at the age of sixty-five, was the surest road to acquire her favour and esteem.

The Scotch having come to a rupture with Charles the First, passed the Tweed at Berwick, their army consisting of eighteen thousand foot, two thousand horse, and upwards of five hundred dragoons, with which force they resolved to support the Parliament. On the 20th of April following they formed a junction with the English rebels, commanded by Lord Fairfax and his son, when they laid siege to York, whither the Earl of Newcastle, who supported the royal cause, had retreated with his forces.

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JANUARY THE SIXTEENTH.

Battle of Corunna, and Death of Sir John Moore, 1809.

On the 11th of January, the whole of the British reached Corunna, except one division, which had been dispatched to Vigo. But, unfortunately, the transports from the latter harbour were not yet arrived, and the French army was seen the next morning approaching the town.

Thus, at length, were the English troops arrived at the port, where they hoped to embark, not, however, without the probability of a battle. In that approaching struggle there were many adverse circumstances to encounter. They were exhausted, and totally worn out by a rapid march of two hundred and fifty miles over a dreadful country, in the most inclement season of the year, deprived of every accommodation, and often destitute of food and shelter, added to which, they had been compelled to sacrifice most of their baggage, and some of their artillery. The greater number of their horses had also been put to death, in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of their enemies.

The French forces made only partial indications of attack, till noon of the 16th, when they began to place some guns in front of the right and left of their line, and follow up that preparatory movement by an attack on the division of General Baird. As the enemy's

line was getting under arms, Sir John Moore, being then employed in visiting the outposts, and explaining his plans to his general officers, being made acquainted with the hostile preparations of the French, flew to the field, expressing his regret, that the advanced time of the day would not allow the British army to reap all the advantages of a victory which he had considered as certain. The career, however, of that gallant general was near its end, for as captain Hardinge, who had been sent to order up a battalion of the guards to the left flank of the Highlanders, was making his report, a cannon ball struck the left shoulder of Moore, and felled him to the ground. So composed and undaunted was the general's countenance, so intently and earnestly were his eyes fixed upon the advancing Highlanders, that for a few moments hopes were entertained of his being rather stunned than materially injured by the shot. But unfortunately it was speedily discovered that Sir John had received a mortal wound, upon which he was immediately transported from the field of battle.

The soldiers, although aware that their commander was carried off, continued to fight with undiminished confidence and valour. The attacks of the French upon the British army were completely repulsed, so that they were in turn obliged to draw back their left flank entirely, in order to prevent its being turned. At five in the evening, the light began to fail, when the enemy had been repulsed in every attack, and the firing ceased, the British then occupying a more advanced line than at the commencement of the engagement. The loss on the part of the English in killed and wounded, is supposed to have amounted to between seven and eight hundred men, while that of the French, in all probability, doubled the number.

General Hope, on whom the command devolved on the death of Sir John Moore, and Sir David Baird being wounded, thought it adviseable to proceed with the embarkation of his troops, for which, indeed, the preparatory measures had been taken by his predecessor. Accordingly, about ten o'clock at night, the troops quitted their position, and marched into Corunna, strong picquets

being left to guard the ground, and give notice should the enemy approach. The embarkation immediately commenced, being covered by the rear guard under General Beresford, consisting of about two thousand men, who occupied the lines in front of the town; while a corps de reserve, under General Hill, was stationed on a promontory immediately behind it. Before day-light, the whole army, with the exception of the rear-guard, was on board the ships. The enemy seemed by no means disposed to renew the engagement, or even to take advantage of the confusion necessarily attendant upon the rapid embarkation of such a large body of men during the night. In the course of the next forenoon, however, the French occupied the rising ground, near the harbour, with some cannon, and fired upon the transports; but the discharges did not prove destructive, nor would they have been attended with any serious consequences, had not the masters of some of the vessels who were panic struck, cut their cables, and suffered the barks to run aground.

As Sir John Moore had repeatedly declared a wish to Colonel Anderson, that he might be buried where he should chance to fall if killed in battle, it was determined to inter his body on the rampart of the citadel of Corunna. Accordingly, at eight o'clock in the evening, the remains of that gallant commander were deposited, without being consigned to a coffin, in a grave hastily dug by the soldiers. Some months after, the Spaniards having again possessed themselves of Corunna, the Marquis de Romana ordered the body to be taken up, when it was honourably interred in the citadel, and a short and simple inscription engraven over the tomb.



JANUARY THE SEVENTEENTH.

Battle of Falkirk, 1746.

The whole of the English forces being assembled, it was resolved to attack the rebels, whose main body was supposed to be in the enclosures near Torwood. It was, however, ascertained from scouts dispatched to reconnoi-

tre, that they were in full march, in two columns, in order to commence the attack. Having gained some rising ground, upon a moor near Falkirk, the British there halted to form; and as soon as their front line was no more than a hundred yards from the rebels, orders were given to advance, when a body of dragoons attacked them sword in hand. The enemy immediately began a sharp fire, upon which the horse gave ground. Such also proved the case with nearly the whole of the infantry; they, however, rallied, when being attacked by the rebels, they repulsed them. A short time previous to the army moving forwards, a violent storm of rain had fallen, to which was, in some measure, attributed this failure on the part of the royal forces, as it prevented the men from seeing before them, which gave their opponents a very great advantage. The Pretender, who on that occasion was posted in the foremost line, issued the signal for engaging. The result of the battle of Falkirk, so unfavourable to the royal cause, raised the spirits of the rebel forces, but their triumph proved of short duration, as the English, who had retreated to Edinburgh, leaving their tents, artillery, and field of battle in possession of the foe, were joined in that city by the Duke of Cumberland. That general, the favourite of the British troops, had been recalled from Flanders, to head the array opposed to the Pretender, consisting of fourteen thousand men, of whom he took the command prior to their marching from the Scottish metropolis. The affair of Culloden, which shortly after ensued, completely changed the scene, as from that period the Pretender's cause became hopeless.



JANUARY THE EIGHTEENTH.

Assassination of King Richard Second, 1400.—Marriage of Henry Seventh and Elizabeth of York, 1486.

“But, however,” says Hall, “it was certain that King Richard died of a violent death, without any infectious or natural disease of the body. The common fame is, that he was every day served at the table with costly meat,

like a king, to the intent that no creature should suspect any thing done contrary to the order taken in the Parliament; and when the meat was set before him he was forbidden to touch it; yea, not to smell to it, and so died of famine; which kind of death is the most miserable, most unnatural, yea, and most detestable, that can be; for it is ten times more painful than death. One writer, which seemed to have much knowledge of King Richard's affairs, relates, that King Henry sitting at his table, sore sighing, said, "Have I no faithful friend which will deliver me of him whose life will be my death, and whose death will be the preservation of my life?" This saying was much noted of them which were present, and especially of one called Sir Piers of Exton. This knight incontinently departed from the Court, with eight strong persons, and came to Pomfret, commanding that the esquire, who was accustomed to serve the King, should let him eat well now, as not long would he eat. King Richard sat down to dinner, and was served without curtesie or assay, when he, marvelling at the sudden change, demanded of the esquire, why he did not his duty? Sir, said he, I am otherwise commanded by Sir Piers of Exton, who is newly come from King Henry. When he heard that word, he took the carving knife in his hand, and struck the esquire on the head, saying, The devil take Henry of Lancaster and thee together: and with that word, Sir Piers entered into the chamber well armed, with eight tall men in harness, every man having a bill in his hand. King Richard perceiving them armed, knew well that they came to his confusion, and putting the table from him, valiantly took the bill out of the first man's hand, and manfully defended himself, and slew four of them in a short space of time. Sir Piers being somewhat dismayed by his resistance, leaped into the chair, whereon King Richard was used to sit, and while the other four persons assailed and chased him about the chamber, who being unarmed, defended himself against his enemies, being armed, (which was a valiant act;) but in conclusion, chasing and traversing from the one side to the other, he came by the chair where Sir Piers stood, who with a stroke of his pollaxe felled him to the ground; and then he was shortly rid out

of the world without either confession or receipt of sacrament. When this knight perceived that he was dead, he sobbed, wept, and rent his hair, crying, Oh Lord! what have we done? we have murdered him, whom by the space of twenty-two years, we have obeyed as king, and honoured as our sovereign lord. Now all noble men will abhor us; all honest persons will disdain us; and all poor people will rail and cry out upon us; so that during our natural lives, we shall be pointed with the finger, and our posterity shall be reproved as children of homicides, yea of regicides and prince quellers. Thus have I declared to you the diversities of opinions concerning the death of this unfortunate prince, remitting to your judgment, which you think most true. But the truth is, that he died of a violent death, and not by the dart of natural infirmity."

Previous to the sanguinary battle of Shrewsbury, where Harry Percy, surnamed Hotspur, perished, it appears that his father, the Earl of Northumberland himself, and the leading conspirators against Henry the Fourth, dispatched to the King certain articles of accusation, tending to prove the justice of their plea in having taken up arms against him, Henry of Bolingbroke, otherwise Henry the Fourth. The said document was forwarded to the King by the hands of Thomas Kaiton and Thomas Salvaine, Esquires, the night before the conflict, being signed and sealed by the Earl of Northumberland, Harry Percy, &c. In that document, among other allegations, is the following, which clearly goes to state that the defunct Richard died by starvation; and it is but reasonable to suppose that men of such high stations, who stood forth in support of the murdered prince's cause, and lived at the time, must have been perfectly conversant with the true manner of his death, or they would never have forwarded such a charge to the reigning monarch, who might have produced proofs of his innocence, had the statement been unfounded. The clause in question, which we conceive conclusive of the fact, runs as follows:

"Also we allege and intend to prove, that thou swear-est to us upon the same Gospel, in the aforesaid place

and time, that our Sovereign Lord and thine, King Richard, should reign during the term of his life, in his royal prerogative and dignity. Thou hast caused the same our Sovereign Lord and thine, traitorously within the castle of Pomfret, without the consent or judgment of the Lords of the realm, to suffer for fifteen days and nights (which is horrible among Christian people to be heard) with hunger, thirst, and cold to perish, to be murdered. Wherefore thou art perjured and false."

As soon as Henry had secured his crown by the victory obtained on Bosworth field, and the death of his rival, his first care was to espouse the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Edward the Fourth; thereby uniting the red and white roses, and thus cementing the interests of the Houses of York and Lancaster. Being, however, apprehensive lest the people should suppose, that he only acquired the crown in right of that union, the politic Lancastrian deferred the coronation of his queen for two years, thereby rendering the priority of his own claim incontestible.

JANUARY THE NINETEENTH.

The Earl of Surry beheaded, 1547.—Ruthen defeated by Sir Ralph Hopton, 1643.—Ciudad Rodrigo taken by storm, 1812.

The Duke of Norfolk, and his son, the Earl of Surry, were the last victims who felt the injustice of the tyrannical Henry the Eighth's groundless suspicions. The Duke had served the King with talents and fidelity, while his son was a young man of the most promising hopes, excelling in every accomplishment that became the scholar, the courtier, and the soldier. He was a proficient in all the military exercises then in request; he encouraged the fine arts by his practice and example; and it is remarkable that he was the first who brought our language in his poetical pieces, to any degree of refinement. He celebrated the fair Geradine in all his sonnets, and maintained the transcendancy of her beauty in all places of

public contention. Those qualifications, however, were no safeguard for him against Henry's suspicions; he had unfortunately dropped some expressions of resentment against the King's Ministers, upon being displaced from the government of Boulogne; added to which, the whole family had become obnoxious from the late incontinency of Catherine Howard, who had suffered decapitation. From those motives, therefore, orders were issued for the arrest of the son and his father, who were seized on the same day, and confined in the Tower. Surry being a commoner, his trial was the more expeditious; and as to proofs, there were many informers base enough to betray the intimacies of private confidence, and all the ties of consanguinity. The Duchess Dowager of Richmond, Surry's own sister, enlisted herself among the number of his accusers; and Sir Richard Southwell, his most intimate friend, charged him with infidelity to the King. Indeed, it would seem that at this dreary period, there was neither faith or honour to be found throughout the English nation. Surry denied the charges, and challenged his accusers to single combat; which, however, was refused. Another crime adduced was, his quartering the arms of Edward the Confessor on his escutcheon, which in itself was deemed sufficient to convict him of aspiring to the crown. To that allegation, Surry made no reply; and, indeed, any answer would have been needless; for neither Parliaments nor Juries, during the reign of the despot, seemed to be guided by any other proofs but the will of the Sovereign. This young nobleman was, therefore, condemned for high treason, notwithstanding his eloquent and spirited defence; which sentence was soon after executed upon him on Tower Hill.

Sir Ralph Hopton engaged Ruthen, who had been appointed Governor of Plymouth by the Parliament, at Leskard, in Cornwall; when the latter was defeated with the loss of many killed, and twelve hundred taken prisoners, with their cannon, ammunition, &c. Sir Ralph then attacked Saltash, which surrendered; and thereby the Royalists became masters of the whole of Cornwall.

On the 8th of January, 1812, Lord Wellington commenced the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, that place having been considerably strengthened by the French, while in their possession, so that the difficulty of approaching the town had been greatly augmented. The city was however taken by the allies on the 19th; when the events of the siege put the British in possession of one hundred and fifty-three pieces of ordnance, including the heavy train belonging to the French army, together with immense quantities of ammunition and stores. There were also surrendered with the Governor (General Barrier) about seventy-eight officers, and one thousand seven hundred prisoners. Upon the capture of Ciudad, Lord Wellington set about repairing the damages which the works had sustained, and in a short time the fortifications were in an excellent state of defence.

The impression made on the minds of the people in England by the capture of Ciudad Rodrigo, was very great, as it manifested the excellent conduct and prudent management of Lord Wellington, which had so greatly operated in favour of the general cause, as to keep the enemy in check while in the act of besieging the most important depot. For that meritorious conduct, his Lordship did not go unrewarded, as the Prince Regent immediately created him Earl of Wellington, in addition to his other titles and honours. On that occasion, also, duly appreciating the merits of the other officers, his Royal Highness nominated Lieutenant Generals Graham and Hill to be received as Knights of the most honourable order of the Bath.

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**JANUARY THE TWENTIETH.**

*Oliver Cromwell assembled the two Houses of Parliament, 1657-8.*

The House of Commons met according to their adjournment, as well as the new and self-constituted House of Peers, in pursuance of a summons issued by Cromwell, who sent for the Commons to appear in the Upper House by the Black Rod on the same day. The Protector then

delivered a speech to both Houses, which he commenced in the accustomed royal stile of phraseology: "My Lords, and you the knights, citizens, and burgesses of the House of Commons, &c." Cromwell then directed his Lord Keeper, Fiennes to deliver his sentiments more fully, whereupon the latter delivered a very ample speech, insisting on the perfect form of the then modelled constitution as in every respect applicable to the genius of the English people. After the Commons had withdrawn, much debating ensued, when they readmitted the excluded members, inveighed most bitterly against the constituting a house of peers, and went so far as even to question the Protector's authority in summoning them.

Among the Members of the Lower House there were many gentlemen of ancient and honourable families, and several of the Colonels and Captains, who had served in the parliamentary war; but none of the nobility, excepting the Lord Eure, had a seat in the House. The Earl of Warwick, his grandson, who had espoused one of Cromwell's daughters, could not be persuaded to become a representative in Parliament, where he must have associated with Colonels Hewson and Pride, the former of whom had been a cobbler, and the latter a drayman.

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JANUARY THE TWENTY-FIRST.

The Royalists defeated at Nantwich, by the Lord Fairfax, 1644.

The Lord Byron having besieged Nantwich for Charles the First without success, Lord Fairfax, the parliamentary general, arrived with his forces to relieve that town, when the Royalists experienced a complete rout with the loss of three thousand men in killed and prisoners.

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**JANUARY THE TWENTY-SECOND.**

*The Duke of Somerset beheaded, 1552.*

The Duke of Somerset was accused of having formed a design to raise an insurrection in the north, of attacking

the train bands on a muster day, and of plotting to secure the Tower and excite a rebellion in London. Those charges he strenuously denied, but confessed to one of as pernicious a nature; namely, the having formed a project for assassinating Northumberland, Northampton, and Pembroke, at a banquet which was to have been given to those nobles by Lord Paget. Somerset was soon after brought to trial before the Marquis of Winchester, who sat as high steward on the occasion, and twenty seven peers, including Northumberland, Pembroke, and Northampton, who thereby became at once his judges and accusers.

The Duke was further charged with an intention of securing the person of the King, reassuming to himself the administration of public affairs, and raising an insurrection in the city. He pleaded "not guilty" to the first charge, on which he was acquitted; but found guilty of conspiring the death of a privy councillor, which crime had been rendered felony in the reign of Henry the Seventh, and for that he was condemned to be executed.

The populace seeing the Duke reconveyed to the Tower without the axe, which was no longer carried before him, imagined that he had been entirely acquitted; and, by repeated shouts and acclamations, manifested their joy; which sentiment was suddenly damped, on being made acquainted with his doom. Care had been taken in the interim to prepossess the young monarch, Edward the Sixth, against his uncle; and lest he should relent, no access to the royal presence was permitted to any of Somerset's friends, while the King was kept from reflection by a series of occupations and amusements. At length, the prisoner was brought to the scaffold on Tower Hill, where he appeared without the least emotion, in the midst of a vast concourse of spectators, by whom he was beloved. He then spoke with great composure, protesting he had always promoted the service of his royal master and the interests of true religion, to the best of his power. The people attested their belief in what he said, by crying out, "It is most true;" and a universal tumult was on the point of taking place, when Somerset exhorted them

to remain quiet, and not interrupt his last meditations, but join with him in prayer. The Duke then laid down his head with unruffled composure, and submitted to the stroke of the executioner.

**JANUARY THE TWENTY-THIRD.**

*Edward Third assumes the Title and Arms of France, 1340.—Assassination of Murray, Regent of Scotland, 1569.*

Edward the Third first assumed the title of King of France, and quartered with his own arms the Fleur de Lis of that kingdom, at the same time adopting the motto: "*Dieu et mon Droit.*"

Hamilton, of Bothwellhaugh, was the person who assassinated Murray, Regent of Scotland. He had been condemned to death soon after the battle of Langside, and was indebted for his life to the Regent's clemency. Part of his estate, however, had been bestowed upon one of Murray's favourites, who seized his house, and turned his wife out naked, on a cold night, into the open fields, in which situation, before the ensuing morning, she became furiously mad. The injury in question made a deeper impression upon Hamilton than the benefit he had previously received; so that he vowed to be revenged upon the Regent, which sentiment was strengthened and inflamed by the party-spirit then prevalent. His kinsmen, the Hamiltons, applauded the enterprize, and the maxims of that age justified the most desperate course which he could take for the attainment of vengeance. The murderer, therefore, followed Murray for some time, and watched an opportunity to strike the blow. He resolved, at length, to wait until his enemy should arrive at Linlithgow, through which town he was to pass in his way from Stirling to Edinburgh. Hamilton there took his stand in a wooden gallery, which had a window towards the street; he spread a feather-bed on the floor, to prevent the noise of his feet from being heard; hung up a black

cloth behind him, in order that his shadow might not be observed from without; and, after such preparation, calmly awaited the Regent's approach, who had lodged during the night in a part of the town not far distant. Some indistinct information of the danger that threatened him had been conveyed to the Regent; to which he paid so much regard, that he resolved to return by the same gate through which he had entered, and take a circuit round the town. The crowd, however, about the gate being considerable, and himself unacquainted with fear, he proceeded directly along the street; when the throng of the people obliging him to move very slowly, afforded the assassin time to take so true an aim, that he shot Murray with a single bullet through the lower part of his belly, and killed the horse of a gentleman who rode on the other side. The followers instantly endeavoured to break into the house from whence the discharge had issued; but they found the door strongly barricadoed; so that, ere it could be forced open, Hamilton had mounted a fleet horse, which stood ready for him at a back passage, and thus escaped far beyond their reach. The Regent died the same night of his wound.



#### JANUARY THE TWENTY-FOURTH.

*Anne Bolen divorced from Henry Eighth, 1536.*

As soon as the enemies of Anne Bolen perceived that Henry had imbibed a disgust towards her, they resolved to gratify his inclination by seizing the first opportunity that should present itself affording a pretext for his getting rid of her. Such a time-serving set of courtiers soon found means of alleging crimes against the Queen which were construed into realities by the fickle and tyrannical Henry. The Countess of Rochford, who had espoused Anne Bolen's brother, a woman of notorious character, began to whisper the most infamous aspersions against her sister-in-law, pretending, among other charges, that her own husband carried on an incestuous intercourse with his sister; and, not satisfied by the mere insinuation, repre-

sented all the harmless levities of her majesty, as acts of wanton criminality. Henry's jealousy first manifested itself during a public tilting match, held at Greenwich, on which occasion Anne Bolen chanced to drop her handkerchief, when it was falsely inferred, that such act had been intentionally done, that one of her favoured minions might wipe the perspiration from his face, having been overheated by the exercise. This circumstance awakened all the anger of the King, who abruptly rising, quitted the pastime, and immediately after issued orders that his consort should remain confined to her chamber. The poor Queen, unconscious of guilt, smiled when the command was delivered, conceiving that his majesty was in jest; but soon after finding the matter of a more serious nature, she received the sacrament in her closet, fully sensible of the little mercy that was to be expected from her exasperated and unforgiving tyrant. Shortly after the divorce ensued, when the Queen was further doomed to stand arraigned for her life, on the plea of incontinency.

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JANUARY THE TWENTY-FIFTH.

Council of Clarendon convened by Henry Second, 1164.

The celebrated Council of Clarendon was convened by Henry the Second, for the purpose of retrenching the power of the Church, which was subscribed to by the Archbishops and Bishops; but the Pope refused, by a bull which was issued from the Romish See, to ratify the same. On that occasion, the haughty primate, Thomas a Becket, took part with the Pontiff against the King, for which he was impeached, tried, convicted, and sentenced to pay a fine. Becket, in consequence, quitted England the second of November following, and placed himself under the protection of the Pope and the King of France, the former potentate receiving him with the greatest pomp. The result of Becket's conduct was a war between England and France, and a resolution on the part of Henry the Second, to throw off all dependence on the Pope, and free himself and his people from a burden which had so long oppressed them.

JANUARY THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

Coronation of King Edward Third, 1327.—A General Thanksgiving ordered throughout England, for the Peace of Europe, 1816.

Edward the Third was inaugurated at Westminster, during the lifetime of his father, who had been deposed for alleged incapacity to govern the realm. The Parliament by which young Edward was raised to the throne, appointed twelve persons to constitute his Privy Council and direct the operations of the Government. Mortimer, who was the paramour of Isabel, queen of the deposed monarch, artfully excluded himself from officiating as one of the twelve members of the Council, under a pretended show of diffidence, though, at the same time, he secretly influenced all the measures that came under deliberation. That favourite, owing to his influence, caused the major part of the royal revenues to be settled on the Queen Dowager, and seldom took the trouble to consult the Ministers of Government in any public undertaking. Edward the Third was himself so beset by the creatures of Mortimer, that no access could be procured to his royal presence; and, in consequence, the whole regal authority was for a time shared between Isabel and her favourite; the former taking no pains whatsoever to conceal her criminal attachment.

A General Thanksgiving was ordered throughout England, in consequence of the Peace ratified between Great Britain, the Allied powers, and France.

JANUARY THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.

Charles the First condemned to death, 1649.

King Charles the First was thrice produced before the Court, and as often persisted in denying its jurisdiction. On the fourth and last time, being conducted before that self-created tribunal, his Majesty was insulted by the soldiery and mob, who exclaimed, "justice! justice! execution! execution." The monarch, however, continued

undaunted. His Judges having examined some witnesses, by whom it was proved that the King had appeared in arms against the forces commissioned by Parliament, sentence was pronounced against him. He then seemed very anxious to be admitted to a conference with the two Houses, and it was supposed his intention was to resign the crown to his son ; but the Court refused compliance, and considered his request as a mere artifice to delay the course of justice.

The conduct of the King, under all those instances of low bred malice, was great, firm, and equal. On proceeding through the hall, from that execrable tribunal, the soldiers and rabble were again instigated to cry out justice and execution, and the crowd reviled him, making use of harsh and bitter reproaches. Among other insults, one miscreant presumed to spit in his face, which diabolical act he patiently bore, exclaiming " Poor souls, they would treat their Generals in the same manner for sixpence."

Those among the populace, who still retained feelings of humanity, expressed their sorrow in sighs and tears ; and one soldier, more compassionate than the rest, could not forbear imploring a blessing on his Majesty's royal head, when an officer overhearing him, struck the honest fellow to the ground, in sight of the King, who could not help remarking that the punishment exceeded the offence. On his Majesty's return to Whitehall, he desired permission of the House to see his children, and he attended in his private devotions by Dr. Juxon, Bishop of London. Those demands were granted, as well as a delay of three days, that he might prepare for execution. All the members of the royal family then in England were, the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Gloucester, a child of about three years of age. After many seasonable and sterling exhortations to his daughter, Charles took his little son in his arms, and embracing him said, " My child, they will cut off thy father's head, yea, they will cut off my head and make thee king. But mark what I say ; thou must not be a king as long as thy brothers Charles and James shall be living. They will cut off their heads,

when they can take them, and thy head, too, they will cut off at last; therefore I charge thee, do not be made a king by them." The child, then looking piteously on the King's countenance, while tears streamed from his eyes, made this emphatic answer, "I will be torn in pieces first."



JANUARY THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.

Death of King Henry the Eighth, and Accession of the pious and munificent Edward the Sixth, 1547.
—The Gunpowder Conspirators arraigned, convicted, and condemned, 1606.

Sanders, the historian of the Reformation, informs us that when Henry the Eighth, being near his end, had become diseased, choleric, and curious in trifles, he was wont to reward such as ordered his screen or chair to be removed to a convenient distance from the fire, with the grant of some abbey; or the lead from the roofing of some sacred edifice; and Fuller, in his Church History asserts, that the monarch in question gave a religious house of some value to a female, who had presented him with a dish of puddings that pleased his palate.

King Henry died in the 56th year of his age, and the 38th of his reign, and was buried at Windsor, at which place he had founded a college for the support of thirteen poor knights and two priests. As this monarch had destroyed all the religious houses, amounting to 1148, and seized the lands that produced an annual rental of £183,707 13s. 0d. he erected out of the same six bishoprics, namely, those of Westminster, Oxford, Peterborough, Bristol, Chester, and Gloucester; he also founded Trinity College, Cambridge, and Christ's Hospital in London; and refounded Christ's College, in Oxford.

Henry being empowered to limit the succession of the crown by Act of Parliament, settled the same upon the issue of his sister Mary, by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, in case his daughters Mary and Elizabeth should die without progeny, to the exclusion of his elder sister Margaret, who had espoused James V, King of Scotland.

Edward the Sixth had not attained his ninth year, when he came to the crown, his deceased father having appointed by his will, that the majority of the prince should be fixed on his attaining the age of eighteen. From his premature death, it is impossible to decide as to the real qualifications of Edward's heart; but as regards the cultivation of his understanding, historians have handed down incontestible evidence that it was of the most astonishing kind. Edward was conversant with the Greek, Latin, French, Italian and Spanish languages, and a proficient in logic, natural philosophy, theology, and music. Cardan, the celebrated scholar and visionary, who happened to visit the court of England, was so astonished at the early progress of this prince, that he extolled him as a complete prodigy of nature; but what rendered him still more estimable, was the pure piety with which he was imbued, and the charity and munificence that characterized the short period of his earthly career. Among the instances that may be adduced of the latter class, we should conceive ourselves guilty of an unpardonable fault, did we omit to instance the permanent establishment of Christ's Hospital in London, which had been previously granted by Henry the Eighth to the city of London in 1537, for charitable purposes, but neglected until 1552, when the pious young monarch, at the suggestion of Bishop Ridley, founded Christ's Hospital, as an institution for the support and education of poor orphan children. To effect this, Edward appropriated lands belonging to the Savoy, amounting to £600 per annum; and, among other benefactions, granted a licence to take lands in mortmain, to the amount of four thousand marks yearly.

As the youthful regal founder was equally engaged in establishing St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, and Bridewell Hospitals, he granted a Charter of Incorporation to the City of London, under the title of "The Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of London, Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the Hospitals of Edward the Sixth, King of England."

Those Charters so animated the citizens, that they instantly began to fit up the Grey Friars Monastery, and in

six months 340 boys were admitted, which number was by the end of the year increased to 380, one of the earliest pupils being the famous historian Camden. From that period the Hospital increased in magnitude and importance, through numerous benefactions from private individuals. The great fire of London in 1666 did infinite damage to Christ's Hospital, but the liberality of the Corporation, aided by donations and loans, remedied the evil, at which period Sir John Frederick, Knight and Alderman, expended £5,000 in re-erecting the Great Hall.

Charles the Second, in 1672, founded the Mathematical School for the instruction of forty boys in navigation, and in consequence of the grants of that monarch in 1683, the Governors were enabled to erect a handsome structure at Hertford for the tuition of girls as well as boys, that seminary containing upwards of 400 children, which, added to Christ's Hospital in London, makes a total of 1150, including 80 girls; there is, however, no limitation as to number, which varies according to the revenues of the Hospital.

From evidence given before a Committee of the House of Commons in 1816, the gross income of this excellent Institution, exclusive of the balance in the Treasurer's hands, was, in 1814, £44,725 and, in 1815, £43,386, the expenditure for those years having been, in 1814, £41,061 and, in 1815, £40,420.

Guido Fawkes, otherwise Johnson, with those confederates who had not fallen previous to their being arrested, were this day brought to trial, and sentence of death passed upon them. The Earl of Northumberland, being a relative of Thomas Percy, one of the leading personages concerned in this diabolical attempt, having been suspected as an accessory, was committed to the Tower, and fined thirty thousand pounds, for having received Percy into the band of gentlemen pensioners, without exacting from him the requisite oath of supremacy. The Lords Mordaunt and Sturton were equally sentenced to pay, the one ten thousand, and the other six thousand marks, as suspected of being privy to the treason. In consequence of this

plot, the Oath of Allegiance was first devised and administered according to the formula practised in the present day.

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**JANUARY THE TWENTY-NINTH.**

*Death of his late Majesty King George the Third, and  
Accession of his present Majesty, 1820.*

His late Majesty King George the Third, of revered memory, died at Windsor, where he was buried, after a long and glorious reign of fifty-nine years, three months, and four days. He was succeeded by his present most gracious Majesty, who was proclaimed on the 31st of January, and crowned on the 19th of July, 1821.

George the Third succeeded his grandfather George the Second, and was proclaimed King of Great Britain on the 26th October, 1760. He ratified peace with France, in 1763, and in 1775 a war broke out with the American Colonies, which declared themselves independent of the mother country. In 1778 hostilities commenced with France, in 1779 with Spain, and in 1780 with Holland. In 1783 a general peace was signed, and the independence of the United States of America admitted by the English cabinet. In 1792 war broke out with the republican government of France, which, with the interruption of one year only after the Treaty of Amiens, continued with unceasing animosity on either side, until 1814, when the Emperor Napoleon finally abdicated, and the restoration of the Bourbons was effected. In 1811, in consequence of his Royal Father's mental aberration, his present Majesty, then Prince of Wales, was appointed Regent.

The character of his late Majesty may be summed up in few words; his morals were unimpeachable, and his adherence to strict justice cannot be better evinced than in the case of Doctor Dodd, who suffered death for forgery, notwithstanding every influence was exerted to procure a mitigation of his sentence. As a husband and father, he displayed every affectionate feeling that confers dignity and honour upon man. His court was confessedly the

most brilliant and irreproachable in Europe, and in his domestic habits George the Third resembled more the private gentleman than the dignified head of one of the most powerful empires of Europe.



#### JANUARY THE THIRTIETH.

*Part of the Gunpowder Conspirators were executed, 1606.—Lord Chancellor Bacon convicted of Bribery, 1621.—Charles the First delivered up by the Scotch, 1646-7.—Beheaded, 1649.*

Part of the Gunpowder Conspirators were executed, according to their sentence, at the west end of Saint Paul's church.

This day the third Parliament, in the reign of James the First met, when the learned Lord Chancellor Bacon was convicted of bribery, sentenced to a fine of £40,000, and ordered to be imprisoned during the King's pleasure. The seals of office were in consequence taken from that dignitary, and given to Dr. Williams, Dean of Westminster, who was raised to the See of Lincoln, and subsequently installed Archbishop of York.

The Scotch, in consideration of the sum of £400,000 the arrears due to them, being paid by the English Parliament, basely surrendered up the person of Charles the First to the English Commissioners who had been appointed by the rebellious Commons.

Every night during the interval between Charles' sentence and execution, he slept sound as usual, though the noise of the workmen employed in framing the scaffold continually resounded in his ears. The fatal morning being at length arrived, the King rose early, and calling one of his attendants, bade him employ more than usual care in dressing and preparing him for so great and joyful a solemnity. The street before the royal palace of Whitehall was the place destined for the monarch's execution; as it was intended

thereby to increase the severity of his punishment. He was led through the Banqueting House to the scaffold adjoining that edifice, attended by his friend and servant Bishop Juxon, a man endowed with the same steady and mild virtues as his master. The scaffold covered with black was guarded by a regiment of soldiers, under the command of Colonel Tomlinson, and ready for the catastrophe appeared the block, the axe, and two executioners wearing masks. The populace stood at a greater distance in dreadful expectation of the event. The King surveyed all those solemn preparations with calm composure; and as he could not expect to be heard by the people so far off, addressed himself to the few individuals standing around him. He there justified his own innocence in the late fatal wars; observing that he had not taken arms, until after the Parliament had set him the example. That he had no other object in his warlike preparations, than to preserve the authority which had been transmitted to him by his ancestors; that although innocent towards his people, he acknowledged the equity of his execution in the eyes of his Maker. Charles then owned that he was justly punished for having consented to the execution of an unlawful sentence upon the Earl of Strafford. He forgave his enemies, exhorted the people to return to their obedience, and acknowledged his son as his successor, signifying his attachment to the Protestant religion, as professed in the Church of England. So strong was the impression his dying words made upon the few who could hear him, that Colonel Tomlinson, to whose care he had been committed, acknowledged himself a convert.

While the monarch was preparing for the block, Bishop Juxon said to him, "There is, Sire, but one stage more, which, though turbulent and troublesome, is yet a very short one. It will soon convey you from earth to heaven, where you will find, to your great joy, the prize to which you hasten—a crown of glory." "I go," replied the King, "from a corruptible to an incorruptible crown, where no disturbance can have place." "You exchange," replied the Bishop, "a temporal for an eternal diadem—a good exchange." Charles having taken off his cloak de-



livered his order of the George to the prelate, pronouncing the word "Remember," and then stretching forth his neck upon the block, and extending his hands as a signal, one of the executioners severed his head from his body at a blow, after which, the other holding it up, exclaimed, "This is the head of a traitor." The populace testified their horror at the melancholy spectacle by sighs, tears, and lamentations, for the tide of duty and affection began to return, and each blamed himself either with actual disloyalty to his King, or a passive compliance with the acts of his destroyer. The very pulpits, which used to resound with insolence and sedition, were then bedewed with tears of unfeigned repentance, and all united in their detestation of those designing hypocrites, who, to satisfy their own enmity, involved a whole nation in the guilt of treason.

Charles was executed in the forty-ninth year of his age, and the twenty-fourth of his reign. He was of a middling stature, robust, and well proportioned. His visage was pleasing, but bore an expression of melancholy; and it is probable, that the continual troubles in which he had been involved, might have conveyed that appearance to his countenance. As for his character, the reader will deduce it with more precision and satisfaction to himself, from the detail of his conduct, than any summary given of it by the historian. It will suffice to say, that his faults seem to have originated from the errors of education; while all his virtues, and he possessed many, were the genuine offspring of his heart. Charles flourished at a period, when the spirit of the constitution was at variance with the genius of the people; and governing with antiquated rules and precedents, instead of accommodating himself to the changes of the times, he fell, and drew down, in his overthrow, the constitution which crumbled into ruins around him.



#### JANUARY THE THIRTY-FIRST.

*Guido Fawkes and the remaining Conspirators executed, 1606.*

The remaining persons convicted as having been impli-

cated in the Gunpowder Plot, underwent the sentence of the law, in Old Palace-yard, Westminster, among whom was Guido Fawkes, otherwise Johnson, the noted incendiary and conspirator.



## FEBRUARY THE FIRST.

*Queen Elizabeth signs the Death Warrant of Mary Queen of Scotland, 1587.*

While sentiments adverse to Mary queen of Scots prevailed among her subjects, Elizabeth thought she might boldly venture to strike the blow she had so long meditated. She, therefore, directed Davison, one of the Secretaries of State, to bring the fatal warrant, and her behaviour on that occasion plainly demonstrated that it was to humanity we must ascribe her previous forbearance. At the very moment Elizabeth signed the writ which surrendered up a woman, a Queen, and her nearest relation, to the hands of the executioner, she was capable of stinging:—"Go," said she to Davison, "and tell Walsingham what I have now done, though I am afraid he will sigh with grief when he hears it." Her chief anxiety was to secure the advantages which would arise from Mary's death, without appearing to have given her consent to such an odious deed. She often hinted to Paulet, as well as to some other courtiers, that there was time to discover the sincerity of their concern for her safety, and that she expected their zeal would extricate her from the existing perplexity. They were, however, not sufficiently wise to pretend not to understand her design. Even after the warrant was signed, Elizabeth ordered that a letter should be despatched to Paulet in ambiguous terms, complaining of his remissness in not so long spared the life of her principal enemy, and that he would remember what was incumbent on him as a devoted subject to perform; and, in order that Mary might be delivered from continual fear and danger, shorten the days of his prisoner. Paulet, however, rigorous, and often brutal in the discharge of his

duty as Mary's keeper, was nevertheless a man of integrity and honour. He therefore rejected the proposal with disdain; and lamenting that he should ever have been deemed capable of acting the part of an assassin, declared that the Queen might dispose of his life at her pleasure, but that he never would stain his own honour, nor leave an everlasting mark of infamy on his posterity, by lending his hand to perpetrate a crime so infamous and diabolical. On receipt of this answer, Elizabeth became extremely peevish; and calling Paulet a *dainty* and *precise fellow*, who would promise much, but perform nothing, then proposed to employ one Wingfield, who had both courage and inclination to strike the blow. But Davison remonstrating against the proceeding, as a deed dishonourable in itself, and of dangerous example, the Queen again declared her intention that the sentence pronounced by the commissioners should be executed; and that as she had already signed the warrant, she desired no further application might be made to her upon that head.

After such conduct, the privy councillors conceived themselves sufficiently authorized to proceed; and therefore, urged, as they pretended, from zealous motives, for the Queen's safety, or instigated, as is more probable, by an apprehension of the danger to which they would themselves be exposed, if the life of the Queen of Scotland was spared, they assembled in the council-chamber, and by a letter under all their hands, empowered the Earls of Shrewsbury and Kent, together with the high-sheriff of the county, to see the sentence put into execution, which was accordingly forwarded to Fotheringay castle.



#### FEBRUARY THE SECOND.

*Captivity of King Stephen, 1141.—Battle of Mortimer's Cross, 1461.—Coronation of Charles the First, 1625.*

After the misery of numberless and undecisive conflicts, added to the calamities which then afflicted England, a complete victory, gained by the forces of Matilda, pro-

promised to terminate their disputes. Stephen had marched his forces to relieve the city of Lincoln, the Earl of Gloucester having led a body of troops to second the efforts of the besiegers; the two armies in consequence engaged within sight of the city, when a dreadful conflict ensued. After a violent shock, both wings of Stephen's forces, composed of horse, were put to flight, and the infantry soon following their example, deserted the King. The whole race of the Norman conquerors was brave, and Stephen was for some time left without attendants, fighting on foot in the midst of his enemies, assaulted by multitudes, and resisting all their efforts with astonishing intrepidity. Being hemmed in on every side, the Monarch struggled for some time with his battle-axe, but that upon breaking, he drew his sword, and dealt his blows freely round the circle wherein he was enclosed. At length, after performing more than could be naturally effected from a single arm, his sword flying in pieces, he was obliged to surrender himself up a prisoner, he was conducted to Gloucester, and though at first treated with a great deal of respect, he was soon after, on account of some suspicions being entertained, thrown into prison and laid in irons.

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Richard, Earl of March, engaged the forces of Henry the Fifth, under the command of the Earl of Pembroke, at Mortimer's Cross, near Ludlow, when the latter was completely defeated, with the loss of 3,800 men; Owen, Prince of Wales, being captured, was there be-

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Charles the First was crowned at Westminster, by the hands of Queen Henrietta Maria, by the hands of Abbot, Bishop of Canterbury. On that occasion the King was fit to be habited in white, rather than purple, as had usually been the case with his predecessors.

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**FEBRUARY THE THIRD.**

*Death of Swain, King of England, 1014—Surrender of Monte Video to the British, 1807.*

No person disputing the claim of Sweine or Swain, King of Denmark, to the crown, after having entered the Humber, and so intimidating Ethelred, that he retired to the Isle of Wight, sending his wife Emma, and his sons, into Normandy, to her brother, the Danish Prince was crowned in 1013. Nothing material is afterwards recorded respecting this monarch but his levying a most oppressive impost upon the English, which he did not live to see enforced. Swain was killed at Thetford, in Norfolk, but by whose hand historians do not acquaint us, unless we credit the monkish tale, that he was assassinated by St. Edmund, on his threatening to destroy the town and monks of the famous monastery of St. Edmondsbury. This Prince was interred at York.

Monte Video, on the River Plata, in South America, was taken by assault, the British forces being commanded by Brigadier General Auchmuty on that occasion.

**FEBRUARY THE FOURTH.**

*Death of Egbert, 838.—Release of Richard the First from Captivity, 1194.—Abolition of the Papal power in England, 1536.—Death of Rogers, the first Protestant Martyr, 1554.*

As the Saxons had utterly neglected their naval power, since their first settlement in Britain, the Danes who succeeded them in the empire of the sea, found no difficulty in landing upon the Isle of Sheppey in Kent, which they ravaged, returning to their ships laden with the spoil. Their next attempt, the year ensuing, was at the mouth of the Tyne, where they landed a body of fifteen thousand men, who made good their ground against the efforts of Egbert; that monarch, after a battle, being obliged to draw off his forces by night. Within two years after,

he Danes landed on the coast of Cornwall, and being joined by the Britons, advanced towards the borders of Devonshire, where they were totally routed by Egbert in a pitched battle at Hengadown-hill near Mellington. By that victory, the English monarch secured the kingdom from invasion for some time; but his death seemed to put period to the success of his countrymen, and to invite the enemy to renew his devastations with impunity. His renowned prince, who was the seventeenth king of the West Saxons, began his reign in 799. He effected the conquest of Kent, and laid the foundation of the sole monarchy of England in 823, which put a termination to the Saxon Heptarchy. He was solemnly crowned at Winchester, and by an edict in 827, ordered that all the kings of Britain should from thenceforth bear the name of his land. He died in 837, and was interred at Winchester.

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King Richard setting sail from Syria, the sea and wind bringing him, he came into the Adriatic, when he was wrecked on the coast of Istria, and determined to pass through Germany by land on his way to England. He therefore, disguised himself, and took the name of Richard, a merchant, of which he however made but a bad use, being discovered at an inn, owing to his expending more than he should have been expected from a merchant's appearance.

Frederick, Duke of Austria, immediately made King Richard his prisoner, determined to be revenged, for an insult that prince had offered him when in Palestine. King after, the Duke sold the British monarch to the German Emperor, surnamed Asper, on account of the harshness of his nature. By that potentate, Richard was kept prisoner, and charged with a thousand crimes committed in Sicily, Cyprus, and Palestine. The king was as slender, as the magnitude of the crimes; so when tried, Richard possessing great eloquence, acquitted himself in the judgment of all his hearers. The king was at length ransomed for one hundred and forty thousand marks, cullen weight; a sum so enormous in

that age, before the Indies had poured their treasures of gold into Europe, that in order to raise it in England, the clergy were compelled to sell their church plate even to the chalices. The ransom having been partly paid, and the rest secured by hostages, King Richard, after eighteen months imprisonment, returned to England.

The Archbishop of Cullen, in the presence of the King, as he passed by, introduced the following words in saying mass: "Now I know that God hath sent his angel, and delivered thee out of the hand of Herod, and from the expectation of the people;" but his soul, says Fuller, was more healthful for this bitter physic, and he amended his manners better; loving his Queen Berengaria, whom he slighted before.

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The English Parliament assembled, when the famous act was passed abolishing every thing relating to the Pope's supremacy.

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The Rev. John Rogers was Vicar of St. Sepulchre's, and reader of St. Paul's, London. He was educated in the university of Cambridge, and made chaplain to the English factory at Antwerp, where he became acquainted with William Tindal, whom he assisted in his translation of the New Testament, and with Miles Coverdale, who had with many others been driven from England, on account of the persecutions for the six articles in the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII. By conversing with those good men, Rogers threw off all his popish superstitions; and upon Edward the Sixth mounting the throne, he left his living in Saxony and returned to England, when Doctor Ridley, Bishop of London, made him a prebend of St. Paul's Cathedral. In that post he continued till Queen Mary, soon after her accession, banished the true religion, and again introduced the superstition and idolatry of the church of Rome. When that princess was in the Tower of London, imbibing Gardiner's pernicious counsels, Rogers preached at St. Paul's cross, confirming those doctrines which he had been taught in Edward's

time. It was for the Sermon in question, this preacher was summoned before the Popish Bishops, and pleaded his cause in such an energetic yet prudent style, that he was on that occasion dismissed. However, after Mary's proclamation, whereby the disseminating any doctrines in support of the reformed religion, was forbidden, Rogers for contempt of such ordinance, was again summoned before a council of Bishops, who having debated upon the offence committed, ordered him to remain a close prisoner in his own house, from which he might easily have escaped had he chosen. After Rogers had been long imprisoned, and frequently examined, he was at length unjustly and cruelly condemned, by the intolerant and sanguinary Stephen Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester, on Monday the 4th of February, 1554. Being conveyed from Newgate, Rogers desired to speak a few words to his wife, which request was immediately refused. At the place of execution, he was asked, if he would recant his faith; to which he made answer, "That what he had preached, he would seal with his blood." Then, said the sheriff, thou art an heretic; to which the martyr replied, "Such fact, whether true or false, will be known at the day of judgement." He was then, in the presence of Rochester the Comptroller of the Queen's household, and Sir Richard Southwell, sheriff, attended by an immense concourse of spectators, burned to ashes, supporting his torments with unshaken Christian fortitude to the last.

His wife and eleven children met Rogers on his way to the fatal stake; but his firmness did not forsake him even at that trying moment, and he expired a complete martyr to the glorious faith he professed.

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FEBRUARY THE FIFTE.

Order of Saint Patrick instituted, 1783.—Surrender of Guadaloupe, 1810.

His late Majesty, George the Third, created a new Order of Knighthood for Ireland, entitled, the Knights of the Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick; the King to

be Sovereign—the Governor General of Ireland, Grand Master, with sixteen Knights companions. This Order has a Chancellor, Register, Secretary, Usher, and King at Arms, called Ulster.

Guadaloupe capitulated to the British forces, under the command of General Beckwith.

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**FEBRUARY THE SIXTH.**

*The Duke of Somerset made Protector, 1547.—Death of Charles the Second, 1685.—Admiral Duckworth's Victory, 1806.*

Henry the Eighth was succeeded on the throne by his son Edward the Sixth, then in the ninth year of his age. The late King, by his will, which he expected would be absolutely obeyed, fixed the majority of the Prince at the completion of his eighteenth year, and, in the mean time, appointed sixteen executors, to whom, during the Prince's minority, he entrusted the government of the King and the kingdom. The vanity of his intentions was soon discovered, and the first act of the executors was to cause the Earl of Hertford, afterwards created Duke of Somerset, to be Protector of the realm, in whom was lodged all regal authority, together with a privilege of naming whomsoever he thought fit to constitute his Privy Council.

This was a favourable season for those of the reformed religion, and in consequence, the eyes of the late King were no sooner closed, than all persons of that persuasion congratulated themselves on the event. They no longer suppressed their sentiments, but maintained their doctrines openly, in preaching and instructing, even while the laws against them continued in full force. The Protector had long been regarded as the secret partizan of the reformers; and being thus freed from restraint, he scrupled not to express his intention of correcting all the abuses of the ancient religion, and adopting still more openly the doctrines propagated by Luther.

Somerset's power was not a little strengthened by his success against an incursion of the Scots, in which, about

eight hundred of their army were slain; and the popularity he gained upon that occasion, seconded his views in the farther propagation of Protestantism. But the character of the Protector did not stand in need of any mean support from popularity, acquired in such a manner; he was naturally humble, civil, affable, and courteous, to the meanest suitor, while all his actions were directed by motives of unfeigned piety, and unblemished honour: such being the Duke of Somerset, on his attaining the protectorship of the realm of England.

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At this period, the government of Charles the Second was as absolute, as that of any monarch in Europe; but to please his subjects by an act of popularity, he judged it proper to marry the Lady Anne, his neice, to Prince George, brother to the King of Denmark. Such was the final transaction of that extraordinary reign, the King being seized with a sudden fit, which resembled apoplexy, and although recovered in a great measure by being let blood, he languished for a few days, and then expired in the fifty-ninth year of his age, and twenty-fifth of his reign. During his illness, some clergymen of the church of England attended upon the King, to whom he discovered a total indifference as to their pious exhortations; but when catholic priests were admitted to his bedside, he from their hands received the rites of the communion, as administered in the Romish church. Two papers were found in the prince's closet, containing arguments in favour of that persuasion, which documents were soon after published by James the Second, his successor; whereby the latter greatly injured his own popularity, as well as his brother's memory.

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Admiral Duckworth continued under easy sail all night, in his approach to the town of St. Domingo, having given orders to captain Dunn of the *Acasta*, and captain M'Kenzie of the *Magicienne*, to make sail two hours before daylight, for the purpose of reconnoitring. Early on the morning of the 6th, the *Acasta* made signal for two of the enemy's frigates; before seven for nine sail at anchor, and half an hour afterwards they were getting under weigh.

The British squadron approached them fast in close order; and before eight o'clock, discovered that the enemy was in a compact line under all sail, going before the wind for Cape Nisas, to windward of Ocoa Bay, and that this fleet consisted of five sail of the line, two frigates, and a corvette; while the English force amounted to seven first rates and four frigates.

Had the enemy's ships remained at anchor, the British fleet would have found it difficult to approach them; but as they bore away, Admiral Duckworth concluded, from the information he had received, that they were endeavouring to form a junction with their remaining forces. He therefore shaped his course in the *Superb*, which led the squadron, so as to frustrate any such intentions, which was completely effected by a little after nine; at which period an action became inevitable. The British commander then made a telegraphic signal to his fleet—*This is glorious*—alluding to the enemy's squadron being in a situation fit to be engaged, which was equivalent to victory. The signal of their gallant leader was hailed with transport by the crews of all the British ships; to which he also communicated by the telegraph, that the principal object of attack would be the French admiral and his seconds.

At three quarters past nine, Admiral Duckworth directed the ships to take stations for their mutual support, and attack the enemy as he should come up; and after a few minutes, he made the signal for them to engage as closely as possible.

"Just before the action began," says an officer of the *Superb*, "Captain Keates suspended to the mizen story a portrait of our beloved Nelson; there it remained unhurt, but was completely covered, as was Captain Keates himself, with the blood and brains of poor Brookbank, one of our boatswain's mates. Two or three minutes before the work of death began, the officers being uncovered on the quarter deck, our band played 'God save the King;' then came 'Off she goes;' and next, 'Nelson of the Nile.' Never was enthusiasm greater than ours, and to it we all went with heart and hand."

Soon after ten o'clock the *Superb* closed on the bow of the leading ship *L'Alexandre*, and commenced the action. The enemy had brought that ship and *L'Imperiale* together, apparently with a view to quiet the fire of the English admiral in the *Superb*, before any of the other ships could come up: but in this he was disappointed; for the second broadside from the *Superb* did such execution on board *L'Alexandre*, that she became quite unmanageable, and lost her station. The *Imperiale* was by this time within pistol shot of the *Superb*, and apparently serving her fire for the latter; but at that critical moment, Admiral Cochrane in the *Northumberland* came up, notwithstanding the small distance between the *Superb* and *L'Imperiale*, gallantly placed her between them, and received the whole broadside of the largest, which was esteemed the finest ship in the French fleet. Several of the shot passed quite through the *Northumberland* into the *Superb*; which latter ship having received a warm dressing to the *Alexandre*, compelled her to heave off, and went to the assistance of the *Northumberland*, which had, at one time, the fire of three French ships upon her for nearly forty minutes. The movement of the *Alexandre* having thrown her among the lee division, Rear Admiral Louis availed himself of that circumstance; and the rest of the British ships coming up, the action then became general. Nothing could exceed the order and high state of discipline of our brave seamen and marines; for though the enemy kept up an incessant fire coming into action, yet not a gun shot was fired till close aboard, when the British opened in a truly grand and terrific. The enemy fought with obstinacy for an hour and a half at which period French admiral, much shattered and completely beaten, directed for the land, and not being a mile off, at fifteen minutes before noon, ran on shore, having nothing but her foremast standing, which also fell immediately on striking. The *Superb* being only in 17 fathom water, was obliged to haul off in order to avoid a similar misfortune. Not long afterwards the *Diomedé* pushed on near the Admiral, and all her masts went by the

board. About noon the firing ceased, and when the smoke cleared off, *Le Brave*, bearing a commodore's pendant, *L'Alexandre*, and *Le Jupiter*, were in possession of the English. The *Atlas* then approaching *L'Imperiale*, endeavoured to anchor, but the water was too deep, and she was preparing to give the enemy a double-shotted broadside, when the Frenchman's colours were lowered in token of submission, but as that ship and the *Diomedé* could not be got off, they were burned two days after the action by command of Admiral Duckworth. The loss on the part of the British amounted to 74 killed and 254 wounded, among the former there was not one officer, while the three French ships which fell into the hands of the English, had 760 killed and wounded. The loss of the other two could not be correctly ascertained, but was certainly not less than as many more. "When I contemplate," says the brave Duckworth, in his official account of the victory, "the result of this action, where five sail of the line surrendered, or were apparently destroyed in less than two hours, I cannot (though bound to pay every tribute to the noble and gallant efforts of the hon. Rear Admiral Cochrane, Rear Admiral Louis, and the captains, officers, seamen, and royal marines under my command), be vain enough to suppose, that without the aiding hand of Providence, such fortunate results could have been effected, with a loss so comparatively small, and though I shall ever sympathize with the connexions of those that fell, the reflection on the cause, will, I hope, afford much consolation. To speak individually respecting the conduct of any officer would be injurious to all; as all were equally animated with the same zealous ardour in support of their king and country. Yet possessed of these feelings, I cannot be silent, without injustice, to the firm and manly support for which I was indebted to Captain Keates, and the effect produced by the system of discipline and good order, in which I found the *Superb*, as well as the pre-eminence manifested by the British seamen, which was never rendered more conspicuous than during this signal contest."

**FEBRUARY THE SEVENTH.**

*Mary, Queen of Scots, received the Warrant for her Execution, 1587.*

On Tuesday the 7th of February, the Earls of Shrewsbury and Kent arrived at Fotheringay, and demanded access to the Queen, who then read in her presence the warrant for execution, and required her to prepare to die the ensuing morning. Mary heard them to the end without emotion, and then crossing herself in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, "That soul," said she, "is not worthy the joys of heaven, which repines because the body must endure the stroke of the executioner: and though I did not expect the Queen of England would have set the first example of violating the sacred person of a sovereign prince, I willingly submit to that which Providence has decreed to be my lot." Laying her hand on a Bible which happened to be near, Mary solemnly protested she was innocent of the conspiracy which Babington had carried on against Elizabeth's life, and she then mentioned the request contained in her letter to the Queen of England, but obtained no satisfactory answer. After a short pause, Mary entreated with particular earnestness, that in her last moments her almoner might be suffered to attend, in order that she might enjoy the consolation of those pious institutions prescribed by her religion. Even that favour, usually granted to the vilest criminal, was however absolutely denied.

The Queen's attendants during that conversation were bathed in tears, and though overawed by the presence of the two Earls with difficulty suppressed their anguish: However no sooner did Kent and Shrewsbury withdraw, than they ran to their mistress, and burst out into the most passionate exclamations of tenderness and sorrow. But the unfortunate Mary not only retained perfect composure of mind but endeavoured to moderate their excessive anguish; and falling on her knees with those domestics around her, thanked Heaven that her sufferings were so near an end, and fervently prayed that she might be enabled to endure what still remained with.

decency and fortitude. The greater part of the evening was employed by Mary in settling her worldly affairs. She wrote her will with her own hand, distributing her money, jewels, and clothes among her attendants, according to their rank or merit. She also penned a short letter to the King of France, and another to the Duke of Guise, full of tender but magnanimous sentiments, and recommended her soul to their prayers, and her afflicted servants to their protection. At supper she ate temperately as usual and conversed, not only with ease but cheerfulness; she then drank to every one of her servants, and requested their forgiveness if she had ever failed in any part of her duty towards them, and at her accustomed hour retired to bed, and slept calmly for a few hours.



#### FEBRUARY THE EIGHTH.

*Mary Queen of Scotland beheaded, 1587.*

Early on the morning of her execution the unfortunate Mary retired to her closet, and employed a considerable time in devotion. At eight o'clock the high sheriff and his officers entered her apartment, and found her still kneeling at the altar; she immediately started up, and with a majestic mien, her countenance undimmed, and even cheerful, advanced towards the place of execution, leaning on two of Paulet's attendants. She was dressed in a mourning habit, but with an elegance and splendour she had long lain aside, except on a few festival days. An *Agnus Dei* hung by a pomander chain at her neck, her beads were suspended from her girdle, and in her hand she carried a crucifix of ivory. At the bottom of the stairs the two Earls, attended by several gentlemen from the neighbouring counties, received her; and there Sir Andrew Melvil, the master of her household, who had been secluded for some weeks from her presence, was permitted to take his last farewell. At the sight of his royal mistress, whom he tenderly loved, reduced to such a situation, he melted into tears, bewailing her condition, and com-

plaining of his own hard fate in being appointed to carry the account of such a mournful event into Scotland. Mary replied, "Weep not, good Melvil; there is at present great cause for rejoicing. Thou shalt this day see Mary Stuart delivered from all her cares, and such an end put to her sufferings as she has long expected. Bear witness that I die constant to my religion, firm in my fidelity towards Scotland, and unchanged in my affection to France. Commend me to my son; tell him I have done nothing injurious to his kingdom, to his honor, or his rights; and God forgive all those who have thirsted without cause for my blood." With much difficulty, and after many entreaties, Mary then prevailed on the two Earls to allow Melvil, together with three of her men servants and two of her maids to attend her to the scaffold.

It was erected in the same hall in which she had been tried, raised a little above the floor, and covered, as well as a chair, the cushion, and block, with black cloth. Mary mounted the steps with alacrity, beheld all the apparatus with an unaltered countenance, and signing herself with the cross, sat down in the chair. Beale read the warrant for her execution aloud, to which she listened with a careless air, and like one occupied with other thoughts. The Dean of Peterborough then began a devout discourse, suitable to her present condition, and offered up prayers to heaven in her behalf; but Mary declared she could not in conscience hearken to the one or join in the other; and kneeling down, repeated a Latin prayer.

When the Dean had finished his devotions, the Queen with an audible voice, and in the English tongue, recommended unto God the afflicted state of the Catholic church, and prayed for prosperity to her son, and long life and a peaceable reign to Queen Elizabeth. Mary then remarked that she hoped for mercy through the death of Christ, at the foot of whose image she now willingly shed her blood; and then raising and kissing the crucifix, thus addressed it, "As thy arms, O Jesus, were extended on the cross, so with the outstretched arms of thy mercy, receive me and forgive my sins."



She then prepared for the block by taking off her veil and upper garments, and one of the executioners rudely endeavouring to assist, she gently checked him, and said with a smile, "She had not been accustomed to undress before so many spectators, nor to be served by such valets." With calm but undaunted fortitude the Queen laid her head on the block, and while one executioner held her hands, the other at the second stroke severed her head from her body, which chancing to escape its covering, discovered her hair already grown grey with care and sorrow. The executioner then raised it streaming with blood, while the Dean cried out, "So perish all Queen Elizabeth's enemies!" The Earl of Kent alone answering "Amen." The rest of the spectators continued silent and drowned in tears, being incapable at that moment of any other sentiments but those of pity or admiration.

Such was the tragical fate of Mary Queen of Scots, after a life of forty-four years and two months, almost nineteen years of which had been spent in captivity. The political parties that were formed in the kingdom during Mary's reign, have subsisted under various denominations ever since that period. The rancour with which the sectarians were at first animated, has descended to succeeding ages, and their prejudices, as well as their rage, have been perpetuated and even augmented. Among historians who were under the dominion of all those passions, and who have either ascribed to the Queen of Scots every virtuous and amiable quality, or imputed to her all the vices of which the human heart is susceptible, we search in vain for Mary's real character, as she neither verified the exaggerated praises of the one party, nor the undistinguished censures of the other.

In Brantome's *Memoirs of Illustrious Women*, when speaking of the execution of Mary, which account he states as having received from one of her women, who returned to France after her royal mistress's execution, he narrates some curious facts. Among others it is recorded, that after decapitation the body of the Queen was treated in a most disgraceful manner by the execu-

tioner, who proceeded to strip it in spite of the prayers of the attendants, when they at length made the wretch desist by tendering more than the worth of the apparel to which he laid claim. It is further stated that the corpse was then thrown carelessly on an old billiard table, in a chamber adjoining the hall of Fotheringay, and a worn-out piece of cloth placed over it. Brantome adds, that while the body continued in that apartment, the door of which was locked, the attendants of the Queen frequently stole down unobserved in order to peep through the key-hole, and gaze on all that could be traced of the remains of their martyred Queen.



## FEBRUARY THE NINTH.

*Martyrdom of John Hooper, 1555.—Murder of Lord Darnley, 1566.*

John Hooper, student and graduate in the University of Oxford, was so deeply impressed with the study of Scriptures, that he was compelled to remove from the University, and became steward to Sir Thomas Arundel, gaining a knowledge of his religious principles, which he by no means approved, dispensed with his services, although he was very partial to his merits and regarded him as a friend. After having left Sir Thomas's house, he went to Paris, but in a short time returned to England, and was retained by a Mr. Stent. Till the period when he was again molested, and the sequence passed through France to the higher parts of Germany. There, commencing acquaintance with learned men, he received much friendly attention, and was kindly entertained both at Basle and Zurich, where he married a Burgonian, and applied himself very assiduously to the study of the Hebrew tongue.

At length, when the period of the sanguinary six articles had ceased, and King Edward reigned, who dispensed with the church, among many other English exiles who returned was Hooper, who when bidding farewell to his friends, prophetically remarked: "From time to time I will hear from you, and I will write to say

I go on ; but the last news of all I shall not be able to write, for there," said he, taking Bullinger by the hand, " where I shall take most pains, there shall you hear of me being burned to ashes ; and that shall be the last news which I shall not be able to write to you, but you shall hear of me."

When Hooper had taken his farewell of Bullinger and his friends at Zurich, he repaired to England in the reign of Edward VI. ; and on arriving at London, continued to preach every day.

In his sermons Hooper deprecated sin, and sharply inveighed against the iniquity of the world, and the corrupt abuses of the church. The people flocked to hear his voice, which was most melodious ; and frequently when he was preaching, the church would be so full that many continued at the door. In his doctrine he was earnest, in tongue eloquent, in the Scriptures perfect, in pains indefatigable, and in his life exemplary.

Having preached before the King, he was soon after made Bishop of Gloucester, in which office he continued two years, and conducted himself so uprightly, that his very enemies could find no fault with him. After that he was promoted to the see of Worcester. Hooper was no less exalted in his private than public life ; in his domestic concerns he exhibited the best example, and saved nothing from the revenues of his bishoprics, bestowing all in hospitality and charity. " Twice," says Fox, " I was in his house in Worcester, where in his common hall I saw a table spread with good store of meat, and beset with beggars and poor people ; and asking his servants what this meant, they told me that their lord every day had at dinner a certain number of the poor of the said city, who were served by four at a time with wholesome meat, and after were examined by him in the articles of their faith ; and in such manner Hooper executed the office of a most careful and vigilant pastor for the space of two years and more."

Having been cited to appear before Bonner and Dr. Heath, Hooper was led to the council, there falsely accused of owing the Queen money, and in the ensuing year (1564) he wrote an account of his very severe

treatment during eighteen months confinement in the Fleet; and after the third examination, Jan. 28th, 1555, at St. Mary Overy's, he, with the Rev. Mr. Rogers, was conducted to the Compter in Southwark, there to remain till the following day in order to ascertain whether they would recant. "Come, brother Rogers," said Hooper, "must we two take this matter first in hand, and begin to fry these faggots?" "Yes, Doctor," said Rogers, "by God's grace." "Doubt not," replied Hooper, "but God will give us strength;" when the people so much applauded their firmness, that it was with difficulty they were able to pass. Hooper was then degraded and condemned, and Rogers treated in a similar manner.

During the few days Hooper remained in Newgate, was frequently visited by Bonner without avail. On 7th of February he arrived at Gloucester, and after first sleep continued in prayer till the morning.

Mr. Anthony Kingston, who had formerly been Hooper's friend, was appointed by the Queen to attend his execution, who, as soon as he saw the Bishop, fell into tears, and with tender entreaties exhorted him to live. "True it is," said the Bishop, "that this is bitter and life sweet; but alas, consider that death to come is more bitter, and the life to come sweet."

About eight o'clock on the 9th of February, 1555, Hooper was led forth, when there were many thousands collected together, as it happened to be market day. After praying for some time, a box was brought forward before the martyr upon a stool, which contained pardon from the Queen if he thought fit to recant; but on beholding it, Hooper cried out, "If you will save my soul, away with it!" The box being removed, Hooper said, "Seeing there is no remedy, dispatch me quickly." His prayers being concluded, he was prepared for the stake, and taking off his host's surcoat which he had borrowed, delivered it to the sheriff, requesting him to see it restored to the owner; then he put off the rest of his apparel, except a doublet wherein he wished to have been burned, but

the sheriff overruling it, they were also stripped off. Being then in his shirt, Hooper trussed the linen between his legs, where he had a pound of gunpowder in a bladder, and the same quantity placed under each arm, the same having been delivered to him by the guard. Desiring the people to repeat the Lord's prayer, and to pray for him during the period of his agony, he proceeded to the stake, when three irons were brought to bind him, one for his neck, another for his middle, and the third for his legs. On that for his middle being produced, it was found too short for his abdomen, which had swelled from imprisonment; he therefore shrank in, and with his hands pressed back his stomach until it was fastened, but refused having the other irons affixed, assuring the executioner he would give no trouble.

Order was then issued that the fire should be kindled, but there not being sufficient faggots, it was some time before the reeds which were strewed upon the faggots became ignited. More fuel having been brought, and a new fire kindled, it burned the martyr's extremities, and had little power above, excepting on his hair, that was scorched, and his flesh singed, all which time he prayed mildly but not loud. Thus after three quarters of an hour of inexpressible torments, calmly expired John Hooper, upon the 9th of February, 1555.

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While Lord Darnley resided at Glasgow, distant from Mary Queen of Scotland, and in that part of the kingdom where he possessed most influence, he was enabled to accomplish his designs with greater facility. In order therefore to prevent him from executing any wild scheme, it was necessary he should be removed to some place where he would be more immediately under the Queen's eye. For that purpose, Mary, in the first instance, employed all her art to regain Darnley's confidence, and then proposed his removal to the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, under pretence that he would there have easier access to the advice of physicians, while she herself could attend him without being absent from her son. The King was weak enough to be persuaded; and still suffering from debility, and incapable of bearing fatigue, was conveyed in a litter to Edinburgh.

The place prepared for the King's reception was a residence belonging to the provost of a collegiate church called Kirk of Field. It stood nearly upon the same spot where the house belonging to the principal of the University now stands. Such a situation, on a rising ground, and at the period in question standing in an open field, had all the advantages of healthful air to recommend it; but on the other hand, the solitude of the spot rendered it in every way proper for the commission of that crime with a view to which it seems expressly have been chosen.

Mary continued to attend the King with the most assiduous care; she was seldom absent from him through the day, and slept two nights in the chamber under his commandment. She heaped upon him so many marks of earnestness and confidence, as in a great measure tended to quiet those suspicions which had so long disturbed him.

But while he was thus fondly indulging in dreams of the return of former happiness, he stood on the very brink of destruction. On Sunday, the 9th of May, about eleven at night, the Queen left the Kirk of Field in order to attend a mask in the palace, and the following morning the house in which she lay was blown up with gunpowder. The death and shock occasioned by the sudden explosion reached the whole city, and the inhabitants ran to the place where the dead body of the King, with that of a woman who had slept in the same room, were found in an adjacent garden without the city wall, unharmed by fire, and having no bruise or mark of violence, which having been the unhappy fate of Henry Stuart, Earl of Argyll, in the twenty-first year of his age. The reverse of fortune and his own external accomplishments without any other merit, had raised him to a height of dignity of which he was altogether unworthy. His folly and ingratitude he forfeited the heart of a woman who doated on him to distraction. His insolent inconstancy alienated from him such of the nobles as had contributed most zealously towards his elevation. His levity and caprice exposed him to the contempt of the people, who once revered him as the de-

scendant of their ancient kings and heroes. Had he died a natural death, his end would have been unlamented, and his memory forgotten; but the cruel circumstances of his murder, and the shameful remissness manifested in neglecting to avenge the crime, have caused his name to be remembered with regret, and made him an object of pity, to which feeling he would otherwise have had no title.



#### FEBRUARY THE TENTH.

*Insurrection of the Fifth Monarchy Men, 1660-1.*

A set of religious fanatics calling themselves Fifth Monarchy men, created an insurrection in the city of London, having at their head one Venner, a turbulent wine cooper, who, with his adherents, after committing some depredations, was on the 19th arrested, and the commotion suppressed. The above leader and one Hodgkins were in consequence executed near the meeting-house in Coleman-street, and two others, named Oxwin and Prichard also suffered at the end of Wood-street, while on the 21st, nine more paid with their lives for having figured as ringleaders in that insurrection, and were hanged in different places.

These men maintained an opinion, that it was not sufficient to believe Christ should reign on earth and put the saints in possession of the kingdom, but the saints were to take the kingdom to themselves, and so fanatical were many of those misguided enthusiasts, as firmly to believe that the Redeemer would descend from heaven for the express purpose of becoming their champion and commander.



#### FEBRUARY THE ELEVENTH.

*Martyrdom of Sir John Oldcastle, 1418.—Elizabeth of York died in Childbed, 1503.*

The heresy of Wickliff, or Lollardism, as it was called, began to increase daily, and received additional

lustre and preponderance from the protection accorded it, and public preaching of Sir John Oldcastle, Baron Cobham, who had served in the King's household, and stood high in royal favour. The character of this personage, as regarded both civil and military excellence, pointed him out to Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, as a proper victim for ecclesiastical vengeance; and the ignitary in question, made application to Henry the fifth, for permission to inflict the Lord Cobham as a notorious miscreant, sullied by the most abominable heresy. The generous nature of that magnanimous prince, as averse to such sanguinary modes of proceeding, and therefore, requested that he might first be permitted to attempt in person that nobleman's reformation. Henry, in consequence, had a private conference with Sir John Oldcastle, whom he found rooted to his dogmas, and reluctantly determined rather to yield his life, than barter religious tenets. The King was in consequence compelled to relinquish his servant to the rage of his ecclesiastical enemies; when the primate indicted Cobham, and with the assistance of his suffragans, condemned him as an arch heretic to be burned alive. John Oldcastle however, found means to escape from the Tower on the day previous to his execution, and he privily went among his adherents, and stimulated their religious zeal, marched to London in order to be revenged upon his persecutors. The King being apprised of his movements, ordered the city gates to be closed, and repairing by night to St. Giles's fields, seized the chiefs of the Lollards, many of whom were executed, and the rest pardoned. The Lord Cobham however, was not among the captured, and escaped for many years, when he fell into the power of his implacable foes, and never did the cruelty of man invent, a sadder doom to more excruciating torments than to which Cobham was condemned. This unfortunate adherent of Wickliff's had a chain affixed round his middle, and was elevated to such a height above the ground that he was thus gradually consumed before he was to speak more properly, roasted alive, which was inflicted upon him in St. Giles's Fields.

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Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward the Fourth, whom Henry the Seventh had espoused in order to establish himself more firmly on the throne, by uniting the white and red roses of York and Lancaster, died in childhood, and soon after the princess to whom she had given birth. The life of Elizabeth had been far from happy; as her royal husband having a rooted hatred to the House of York, had only married this princess from political motives, and by his treatment uniformly evinced the antipathy he entertained towards the line from which she had sprang.



#### FEBRUARY THE TWELFTH.

*Humphry, Duke of Gloucester, murdered at St. Albans, 1447.—William and Mary proclaimed, 1689.*

Humphry, Duke of Gloucester, who had been appointed Regent of England during the absence of his brother, John, Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, found many who felt envious of his situation, among which number was Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, great uncle to Henry the Sixth, and the legitimate son of John of Gaunt. This haughty and wicked prelate, to whose care the education of the young monarch had been confided, possessed great penetration and experience, but was intriguing, and of a dangerous disposition. The Bishop had therefore incessant bickerings with the Duke of Gloucester, during which he frequently obtained an ascendancy over the open and unsuspecting temper of that prince. The Duke of Bedford in vain endeavoured to restore amity between his brother and the prelate, Parliament was also applied to in order to compass a reconciliation which proved fruitless, and their animosities in consequence tended for many years to embarrass the operations of government. After a series of machinations privily resorted to by Winchester to render the Duke of Gloucester unpopular, and, among others, an accusation that the Duchess, his wife, was addicted to sorcery, in proof of which the most infamous, and, we may add, ridiculous expedients were

resorted to, the Cardinal caused a Parliament to be assembled at St. Edmundsbury, before which Gloucester was summoned, who no sooner appeared than he was charged with treason, and thrown into prison. On the day appointed for the Duke to make his defence, he was discovered dead in his bed, though without any external appearance of violence on his body, which sudden death was universally ascribed to Beaufort, Cardinal of Winchester, who also expired six weeks after, testifying at his last moments the most acute feelings from guilt and remorse for the sanguinary scene in which he had been the chief actor.

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James the Second being deposed, the next consideration was the appointment of a successor to the English throne, when some declared for a Regency, and others for the Princess of Orange should be invested with re-  
authority, and the young prince considered as suppo-  
sitious. As debates in consequence ran very high, a  
conference was demanded between the Lords and Com-  
mons, while the Prince of Orange, with his accustomed  
firmness and prudence, entered into no intrigue with the  
peers or members, but maintained a rigid silence, as  
completely unconcerned as to the result. Perceiving at  
length that little notice was taken of his own name, as  
regarding the succession, William summoned the Lords  
Grey, Shrewsbury, and Danby, with a few others,  
and told them that he had been invited over to  
England to defend the liberties of the English nation;  
having been successful, he had listened to various  
proposals for the establishing a new government, that  
if they desired a Regent he deemed it incum-  
brant to acquaint them he would never accept such an  
office which must be attended with very great difficul-  
ties, that even the crown he would refuse if com-  
pelled to wear it under the authority of the Princess his  
however convinced of her merits. William then  
declared that in the event of either of those schemes being  
adopted he could yield no assistance in settling the  
affairs of the nation, but should return home to his own  
country satisfied that he had been instrumental in secu-

ring the liberty of theirs. The declaration in question produced the desired effect, for after a procrastinated debate in both Houses, a new monarch was preferred to a Regent by a majority of two votes, when it was agreed that Prince William and Princess Mary, of Orange, should reign jointly as King and Queen of England, while the administration of government should be vested in the King alone. The Marquis of Halifax, as Speaker of the Upper House, then made a solemn tender of the crown to their Highnesses in the names of the Peers and Commons of England, after which William accepted the proposal in terms of acknowledgment, and the same day William and Mary were proclaimed King and Queen of England.



**FEBRUARY THE THIRTEENTH.**

*Queen Catherine Howard executed, 1542.*

Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, having accused Catherine Howard, wife of Henry the Eighth, of incontinence, through the information of one Lascelles, she was attainted of high treason without being brought to trial, when she avowed herself guilty of a criminal intercourse with Derham, Marnock, and Colepeper. Catherine was in consequence beheaded on Tower-hill, together with the Lady Rochford, who found little commiseration, as she had before tampered in blood, having been one of the false accusers of the unfortunate Anne Bolen. The Queen however, was more pitied, as she frankly avowed having spent a dissolute life prior to marriage; but solemnly denied, in her last moments, that she had been untrue since her union with the King.

In consequence of the guilt of Catherine Howard, an act was passed making it high treason in any one not to publish a queen's incontinence; and that it should thenceforth be high treason for any female to espouse the King, if not a virgin.



## FEBRUARY THE FOURTEENTH.

*Prince Charles and the Marquis of Buckingham set sail for Spain, 1623.—Admiral Jervis's Victory over the Spaniards, 1797.*

Prince Charles, accompanied by the Marquis of Buckingham, embarked on his romantic expedition to Spain, in order to bring about a match with the Infanta. The prince took Paris in his route, where he visited the court incognito, and beheld Henrietta Maria, daughter of Henry the Fourth, whom he subsequently married. Charles and the Marquis gained Madrid on the 6th of March following, and although articles of marriage were agreed to between the prince and the Infanta, the death of Pope Gregory the Fifteenth, raised an obstacle to the completion of the treaty, and rendered the dispensation void. On the 12th September, Charles returned to England without the princess, and immediately after the match was abruptly broken off.

On the night of the 13th of February, the Spanish fleet approached so near the British, that their signals were distinctly heard. The English admiral then gave the signal to prepare for action; and at day-break on the 14th, they were formed in the most perfect order for sailing in two lines.

Twenty minutes past eleven, admiral Jarvis communicated his intention of passing through the enemy's line, and immediately after the signal was given to engage. The action soon became general, and it quickly appeared that the admiral had accomplished his design, of traversing the enemy's line. In consequence of the skilful manœuvres practised, part of the Spanish fleet was effectually cut off from the main body, and reduced to the necessity of forming on the wrong tack. Admiral Jarvis having thus fortunately achieved his first object, then directed his whole attention to the main body of the enemy's fleet to windward. After 12 o'clock, the signal was made for the fleet to tack in succession, and soon after, the admiral began again passing the enemy's line, while the

Spanish admiral's design appeared to be to join the ships to leeward, by wearing round the rear of the British lines. That intention was, however, frustrated by commodore Nelson, whose station in the rear afforded him an opportunity of observing the enemy's motions. He had no sooner, therefore, passed the Spanish rear, than he wore, and stood on the other tack towards the enemy; and in executing that bold and decisive manœuvre, he found himself alongside of the Spanish admiral, in the *Santissima Trinidad*, of 136 guns. Notwithstanding such great disparity, the gallant Nelson did not shrink from the contest; and while sustaining this unequal conflict, his friends were eagerly pressing to his assistance, when the enemy's attention was directed to the *Culloden*, Captain Trowbridge, and the *Blenheim*, Captain Frederick. The able support given to commodore Nelson by those ships, and the quick approach of rear-admiral Parker with the *Prince George*, *Orion*, *Irisistible*, and *Diadem*, determined the Spanish admiral to relinquish his design of rejoining his ships to leeward, and he gave the signal for his main body to haul their wind, and make sail on the larboard tack. The advantage was then evidently on the side of the British, and the admiral meditated a co-operation, which effectually compelled their surrender.

Captain Collingwood, in obedience to orders, passed the two near-most ships of the enemy, and gave one of them, the *St. Isidore*, so effectual a broadside, that having been much injured before, she was obliged to submit. The *Excellent* then passed on to the relief of commodore Nelson, in the *Captain*, who was closely engaged with a Spanish three-decker, bearing an admiral's flag; but before Collingwood could arrive, the Spaniard's mizen-mast fell overboard, when she got entangled with her second, the *St. Nicholas*, a ship of 84 guns. In this state, the commodore resolved on a bold and decisive measure, and determined, be the event what it might, to attack his opponent sword in hand. The boarders were, in consequence, stationed in readiness, and orders given to lay his ship close to the enemy.

Ralph Willet Miller, the commodore's captain, di-

rected the course of his ship so judiciously, that he laid her aboard the starboard quarter of the Spanish 84, her spritsail yard passing over the enemy's poop, and hooking in the mizen shrouds. The word to board being given, those officers and seamen destined for that perilous duty, headed by Lieutenant Berry, passed with rapidity aboard the enemy's ship; and in a short time the *San Nicholas* was in possession of her intrepid assailants. The commodore's ardour would not permit him to remain an inactive spectator of the scene. He was aware that an attempt was hazardous, when conceiving that his presence might animate his brave companions, and contribute to the success of the daring enterprise, as if by magic impulse, he accompanied the party in their attack. Passing from the fore-chains of his own ship to the enemy's quarter gallery, and thence through the cabin to the quarter-deck, Nelson arrived in time to receive the sword of the dying Spanish commander, who had been mortally wounded by the boarders. The commodore had not been long employed in taking the necessary measures to secure his hard earned conquest, when he found himself engaged in a more arduous task.

The stern of the three-decker, his former opponent, was placed directly amidships of the weather-beam of the prize, *San Nicholas*; and from her poop and sides, the enemy sorely annoyed with musketry the British, who had boarded the *San Nicholas*. Nelson was not long in deciding as to the conduct he should pursue.

The two alternatives that presented themselves, either to quit the prize, or instantly board the three-decker, when, confident in the bravery of his sea-officers, he determined on the latter. Directing therefore a considerable number of men to be sent from the captain, and the *San Nicholas*, the magnanimous commodore led the assailants in that fresh attack, exclaiming: "Minster Abbey, or a glorious victory!" Success within a few minutes crowned the enterprise, when the commodore, enquiring for the British commander, dropped on one knee, and presented his sword. At the same time apologising for the Spanish

Admiral's not appearing, as he had been dangerously wounded.

Admiral Jervis in the interim, ordered the Victory to be placed on the lee quarter of the nearest ship of the enemy, the Salvador del Mundo, and threw in so effectual a discharge, that the Spanish commander seeing the Barfleur bearing down to second the Victory, thought proper to strike.

A little after four in the afternoon, a signal was made for securing the prizes, which obliged Sir John Jervis to bring to. The enemy's ships which had been separated in the morning, were beginning to open a fire upon the British covering ships; but though superior in number, and fresh for action, they contented themselves with a few irregular broadsides, and left the conquerors to sail off triumphantly with their prizes.

Captain Robert Calder, first captain to the Admiral, was sent home with the news of this important victory, for which he was created baronet; and the thanks of both Houses of Parliament voted to the admirals, captains, officers, and crews of the squadron. His Majesty was moreover graciously pleased to create Sir John Jervis, a peer of Great Britain, by the title of Baron Jervis of Meaford, and Earl of St. Vincent; a pension of 3000*l.* a year being also bestowed on him by the unanimous vote of Parliament.

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FEBRUARY THE FIFTEENTH.

Dutch Islands surrendered, 1810.

The Dutch Islands of Saint Eustatia, Saint Martin, and Saint Saba were surrendered up to the British.

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**FEBRUARY THE SIXTEENTH.**

*Sir Nathaniel Dance preserved the East India Fleet, 1804.*

The British East India fleet of merchantmen, under Captain Sir Nathaniel Dance, being homeward bound

encountered a squadron of French men of war, which the English set at defiance, and brought their valuable cargo triumphantly into port. In consequence of that noble exploit, the Committee appointed to dispense the subscriptions of the Patriotic Fund collected at Lloyd's Coffee House, conjointly with the Directors of the East India Company, whose merchandise, to an immense amount, had thus been rescued from capture by the enemy, granted remunerations to the value of Fifty Thousand Pounds to Sir Nathaniel Dance, and all the officers and seamen concerned in that meritorious and gallant action.



#### FEBRUARY THE SEVENTEENTH.

##### *The Second Battle of St. Albans, 1461.*

Queen Margaret's forces being victorious, marched towards London in order to restore the King to liberty ; the Earl of Warwick, who had put himself at the head of the Yorkists, then commanded an army in which he led about the captive King, in order to confer a sanction to his attempts. On the approach of the Lancastrians, the Earl conducted his forces, which were strengthened by a body of Londoners, adherents to his cause, and he then gave battle to the Queen at St. Albans. While the armies were warmly engaged, Lord Clifford, who commanded a considerable body of Yorkists, treacherously withdrew from the combat; which decided the victory in favour of the Queen. Above thousand of the Yorkists perished in that battle, the person of the King again fell into the hands of the Lancastrian party, to be treated with apparent respect, in reality, with real contempt.

Lord Bonville, to whose care Henry the Sixth had been entrusted by the Yorkists, remained with the King till after the defeat, having received an assurance of pardon ; but Queen Margaret, regardless of Bonville's promise, immediately ordered his head to be struck off.



**FEBRUARY THE EIGHTEENTH.***Admiral Blake's gallant Victory over Van Tromp,  
1653.*

On the 18th of February, Blake discovered the Dutch fleet standing up channel, off Cape La Hogue; which consisted of no less than seventy sail of men of war, and 300 merchantmen. Blake with twelve ships immediately bore down upon the Dutch, and attacked them, when the battle commenced about eight in the morning. The English Admiral in the *Triumph*, distinguished himself by his accustomed boldness and intrepidity, and was nobly supported by the *Fairfax*, Captain Lawson, and the *Vanguard*, Captain Mildmay. Before the rest of the fleet could come up, those vessels were considerably damaged; the *Triumph* in particular being miserably shattered. Blake lost the Captain of his own ship, a brave and active officer, whose name was Ball, together with Mr. Sparrow his Secretary, and above an hundred seamen, and among the wounded was the Admiral himself, who had received a ball in his thigh. The *Fairfax* was an equal sufferer with the *Triumph*, and on board the *Vanguard*, Captain Mildmay (who on a former occasion had taken a Dutch Vice Admiral) was killed. The *Prosperous* of 44 guns was boarded and taken by De Ruyter, who in turn was near being carried in the same manner by another English ship, and while thus engaged, the *Merlin* frigate retook his prize, the *Prosperous*. Thus the action continued with great fury till night, when the Dutch retreated with the loss of seven men of war, one of which was blown up, and the others sunk or taken. The dreadful carnage on board those which fell into the hands of the English, presented a shocking spectacle to the conquerors.

During the night, the necessary preparations were made for renewing the combat, when the English having sent their wounded men on shore at Portsmouth, again sailed in pursuit of the enemy, who was overtaken about three in the afternoon off the Isle of Wight. Van Tromp wishing to avoid a close engagement, drew up his fleet in form of a crescent round the convoy; and

thus kept up a retreating fight towards Boulogne, but his line was at length forced, and completely broken by the English. De Ruyter's ship was so disabled that it became requisite to tow her; and the merchantmen perceiving the inability of the men of war to protect them, began to fly in every direction. This action, during which eight men of war and several merchantmen were taken by the English, did not terminate with the day: the conquerors continued the pursuit, and frequent skirmishes took place during the night.

On the morning of the 20th, the Dutch being near Boulogne, were again attacked with incredible fury, when three men of war were captured by Captains Law, Martin, and Graves, and several of the enemy's merchantmen picked up by Admiral Penn. The engagement lasted till four in the afternoon, when the enemy sought shelter among the sands off Calais, and the English, not chusing to risk their large ships among the shoals, desisted from the pursuit.

In those conflicts, which continued for three days in succession, the Dutch lost eleven men of war, thirty merchant vessels, and by their own account, 1500 men. The number of killed on board the English fleet, was nearly equal to that of the enemy, as Blake, in order to man the ships, had taken on board some regiments of soldiers, who were employed as marines. The ships in those several obstinate conflicts lost but one, the Sampson, which, being too much disabled to return to any port, was sunk by order of her commander, Sir Batten.



#### FEBRUARY THE NINETEENTH.]

*the First of Scotland Murdered, 1437.—Insurrection at Edinburgh, 1638.*

James the first, father of George Dunbar, Earl of March, had taken up arms against Robert the Third, father of James the sixth of Scotland, for which crime he had been pardoned by The King, however, subsequently obtained a full pardon, declaring such pardon void, and thereby

Dunbar was deprived of his Earldom. As many of the Scottish Chiefs possessed their lands by no better tenure than that by which the noble in question had derived his possessions, namely, grants from the two Dukes of Albany, such a decision occasioned great alarm. Terror and discontent became manifest in this discovery of the King's intention, and, in consequence, the peers resolved to make a bold stand ere they would submit to be stripped successively of their lands, and reduced to a state of exigency and insignificance. The result was, that a few desperate men, who had suffered under the royal administration of affairs, formed a conspiracy against the monarch's life, the first intelligence of which was received by James, then lying in his camp near Roxburgh castle. Not daring to confide in his nobility, to whom he had given such causes for disgust, he forthwith dismissed them and their vassals, and retired to a monastery, in the neighbourhood of Perth, where he was soon after assassinated in a most barbarous manner.

It was the misfortune of James the First that his maxims and manners were too refined for the age in which he flourished. Happy had it proved for him had he reigned over a kingdom more enlightened and civilized; his love of peace, of justice, and of elegance, would have crowned his plans with success, and instead of perishing for an attempt to achieve too much, a grateful people would have applauded and seconded his endeavours to improve them.

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The famous insurrection respecting the Covenant, which had been fomented by the Scottish Presbyterians, broke out at Edinburgh, when the malcontents threw off their allegiance, and entered into a covenant or association against the government, compelling all people to subscribe thereto. In consequence of such rebellious and arbitrary proceedings, Archbishop Spotswood, and several other Scotch prelates fled to England for safety.

Charles the First then issued a proclamation, of a very dubious meaning, for the purpose of appeasing the violent measures adopted by the Presbyterian party, but

the latter entered a protest against the royal edict, which, in defiance of the council, they caused to be read at Stirling, Linlithgow, and Edinburgh. The factious then formed themselves into four tables, as they termed it, to manage their affairs, which was transacted during the periods of devotion; and they further framed an oath to be administered to all such as signed the covenant.



## FEBRUARY THE TWENTIETH.

*Coronation of Edward the Sixth, 1547.—Lord Macguire Executed, 1645.*

King Edward the Sixth was inaugurated at Westminster, on which occasion forty Knights of the Bath were made, and a general pardon issued, from which, however, the Duke of Norfolk, Cardinal Pole, and the Lord Courtenay were excepted.

Connor, Lord Macguire, having been condemned in the upper bench, as it was called, at Westminster, for high treason and conspiring to subvert the government of Ireland, and in having been instrumental to the massacres there, was executed as a traitor at Tyburn.



## FEBRUARY THE TWENTY-FIRST.

*Act passed respecting Literary Property, 1774.—Capture of Trinidad, 1797.*

This day, the great cause respecting literary property was finally determined, when it was resolved by the House of Peers that the statute of Queen Anne was alone sufficient to secure a right to literary property, by which enactment the common law property was done away.

Trinidad surrendered to the British arms.



**FEBRUARY THE TWENTY-SECOND.**

*Queen Henrietta Maria landed in Yorkshire, 1643.*

In order to support her husband's cause, Henrietta Maria having procured succours, landed at Burlington Bay in Yorkshire, with money, arms, and ammunition, which were conveyed by the Marquis of Montrose and the Earl of Newcastle's troops to York. Soon after the landing of her Majesty, five ships belonging to the Parliament entered the road and fired upon the queen's vessels while in the act of sending their supplies on shore; and some balls actually reached the town, and obliged Henrietta Maria to remove to an obscure lodging, shortly after which, she was conducted to York by the Earl of Newcastle.

**FEBRUARY THE TWENTY-THIRD.**

*Peace ratified with Tippoo Saib, 1791.—Capture of Martinique, 1809.*

Lord Cornwallis after displaying the valour of the British arms against the efforts of the belligerent Sultan, Tippoo Saib, terminated a peace which was truly glorious for England; upon which occasion, Tippoo's two sons were surrendered up as hostages for the punctual fulfilment of the terms stipulated by the treaty.

The Island of Martinique was captured by the English, being one of the most valuable possessions of the French in the West Indies.

**FEBRUARY THE TWENTY-FOURTH.**

*Death of Ethelbert, 616.—Coronation of Edward II. 1308.—Papal Bull against Elizabeth, 1569.*

Ethelbert, who was fifth King of Kent, and sixth monarch of Britain, began to reign in 593. St Augustine first arrived in his dominions in 596, with his followers, who were entertained by the King at Canter-

bury, where they rested ; and to whose doctrines Ethelbert became a convert, and gave Canterbury for the use of the Augustines. That Churchman also procured from Ethelbert the gift of an idol temple, without the walls of that city, as a burial place for himself and successors, which he afterwards converted into a monastery. This monarch was the first who caused the laws of the land to be collected, and translated into Saxon ; and performed many other acts worthy of example to his successors. He died February 24th, 616, being the twenty-first of his Christianity, the twenty-third of his monarchy, and the fifty-sixth of his reign over Kent, when he was buried at Canterbury. Ethelbert's first wife was the daughter of Chilperic, King of France, by whom he had three children, a son and two daughters. He had a second wife, whose name is not transmitted to us by historians ; being unworthy of remembrance for having espoused her son-in-law after the death of his father. It is said that Pope Boniface presented Ethelbert's eldest daughter Ethelburga, with a looking-glass and an ivory comb, in order to induce her to marry Edwin, King of Northumberland.

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The pleasure which the people generally feel at the accession of a new prince, effaces their sorrow for the deceased. The faults of the one are known and hated, while the other, from novelty, receives imputed merit. Much, therefore, was expected from the young monarch Edward the Second, and all orders hastened to take the oath of allegiance to him. He was then in the twenty-third year of his age, of an agreeable figure, a mild, harmless disposition, and apparently addicted to few vices ; but he soon gave symptoms of his unfitness to succeed so great a monarch as his father ; he was rather fond of the enjoyment of his power, than of securing it ; and lulled by the flattery of his courtiers, thought he had done enough for glory in having accepted the crown.

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The Pope having excommunicated Queen Elizabeth the preceding year, this day published his famous bull,

absolving her subjects from their allegiance, cursing them should they obey her, and declaring her to be deposed; which anathema occasioned some disturbances among the Catholics, which were, however, speedily suppressed.



#### FEBRUARY THE TWENTY-FIFTH.

*Earl of Essex beheaded, 1602.—Association Act in favour of King William, 1696.*

Essex and Southampton having been arrested, were immediately carried to the archbishop's palace at Lambeth, from whence they were next day conveyed to the Tower, and tried by their peers on the nineteenth of February following. Little could be urged in their defence, their guilt was too flagrant, and though it deserved pity, it could not meet an acquittal. Essex after condemnation was visited by that religious horror which seemed to attend him in all his disgraces. He was terrified almost to despair, by the ghostly remonstrances of his own chaplain; but felt reconciled to his enemies, and made a full confession of his conspiracy. It is alleged upon this occasion, that he had strong hopes of pardon, from the irresolution which the queen had manifested before she signed the warrant for his execution. She had formerly confided to him a ring, desiring he would send it to her in case of any emergency of such a nature, when it should procure him safety and protection. The ring in question was actually sent to the queen through medium of the countess of Nottingham, whose husband being a concealed enemy to the unfortunate earl, she never delivered it, and exasperated Elizabeth, who conceived him guilty of obstinacy in not making such application for mercy and forgiveness. The fact is, she appeared herself as much an object of pity as the unfortunate nobleman she was induced to condemn.

The queen signed the warrant for the earl's execution, then countermanded it, again resolved on his death, and again felt a fresh return of tenderness, at length she

consented to his execution, and never afterwards enjoyed one day of peace.

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On the 25th, 26th, and 27th February, the members of both Houses of Parliament were employed in framing and subscribing the celebrated Association, whereby it was declared that William Prince of Orange was rightful King of the realms of England, and they thereby mutually engaged to stand by and assist each other in defending his Majesty against King James and his adherents, and that in the event of William's coming to a violent death, they obliged themselves to unite and associate in revenging the same upon his enemies, and supporting the succession of the crown according to the act of the first of William and Mary.

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**FEBRUARY THE TWENTY-SIXTH.**

*King William thrown from his horse, 1702.—Surrender of the French Forces in Wales, 1797.—Suspension of Cash Payments at the Bank, 1797.*

King William, in riding from Kensington towards Hampton Court, was unfortunately thrown from his horse and broke his collar bone, in which state he was conveyed to Hampton Court palace, and had the bone set, when he returned to Kensington the same evening. From the effects of that accident William became so weak, that it was found necessary to stamp his name on a commission for passing several acts; among which was the act for further securing his Majesty's person and the succession of the crown in the Protestant line, and extinguishing the hopes of the pretended Prince of Wales, and all other pretenders, as well as their secret abettors. It was this same act that enjoined the taking the Abjuration oath, and was the last public act passed in the reign of this monarch.

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In a letter from Lord Cawdor to the Duke of Portland, it was announced, that the French forces who had effected a landing in Wales, under the command of



General Tate, chef de brigade, on the 22d of the month, had laid down their arms.

An Order of Council was issued for suspending cash payments by the Bank of England, owing to the critical posture in which the country was placed from the apprehensions of a threatened invasion on the part of the French.



#### FEBRUARY THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.

*King Charles's Declaration for Liberty of Conscience, repealed, 1672-3.—Trial of Dr. Sacheverel, 1710. Soult defeated by the Marquis of Wellington, at Orthez, 1814.*

A bill was passed in favour of the Presbyterians in the House of Commons, but negatived in the Upper House; and on the same day, both Houses addressed Charles the First, complaining of the extension of Popery; whereupon the King published a proclamation, commanding all Jesuits and Romish priests to quit the kingdom. The Commons, notwithstanding still feeling dissatisfied, entered upon new measures, resolving not to furnish the money bill till they procured a redress of grievances, and, in particular, a revocation of the declaration for liberty of conscience; when the monarch recalled the same and abrogated it, by breaking the seal with his own hand.

Henry Sacheverel, who was bred at Oxford, possessed narrow intellects and an overheated imagination. He had acquired some popularity among those who distinguished themselves by the name of high churchmen, and had seized every opportunity to vent his acrimonious feelings against the dissenters; and at the summer assizes at Derby, he particularly held forth in that strain before the judges. On the fifth of November in St. Paul's church, Sacheverel, in a violent declaration, defended the doctrine of non-resistance; inveighed

**FEBRUARY THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

*Edward IV. proclaimed at London, 1461.—Peace ratified with Holland, 1674.*

It now only remained that the city of London should declare in favor of Queen Margaret; but the Earl of Warwick had previously secured the citizens in his interests; and the populace dreading her tumultuous army, refused to open their gates to her summons. In the mean time, young Edward, eldest son of the late Duke of York, began to repair the losses his party had already sustained, and infuse fresh spirit into the Yorkists. That Prince, then in the bloom of youth, remarkable for the beauty of his person, his bravery, and popular deportment, advanced towards London with the remainder of Warwick's army, and obliging Margaret to retire, entered the city amidst the acclamations of the multitude. Perceiving his own popularity, Edward supposed that the time had arrived for him to lay claim to the crown, and in consequence, his friend Warwick, assembling the citizens in St. John's Fields, pronounced an harangue, setting forth the title of Edward, and inveighing against the tyranny and usurpation of the house of Lancaster. He then demanded whether they chose Henry for their King. To which the people crying "a York! a York!" he quickly convened an assembly of lords and bishops at Baynard's Castle, where they ratified their choice. The young Duke was in consequence proclaimed King by the title of Edward IV.; and then conducted, with great ceremony, to the palace in which Henry had been accustomed to reside while he remained within the walls of the city.

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The glorious peace with Holland was proclaimed Feb. 28, 1674, whereby the Dutch agreed to strike to the English flag in the British seas, to settle the commerce with the Indies, and that the English planters at Surinam, of which island the Dutch had possessed themselves, should enjoy the liberty of selling their effects and retiring, the Dutch undertaking to pay the King of

England £.200,000, in lieu of the claims his Majesty had on them, excepting what had reference to Indian affairs.

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MARCH THE FIRST.

Lord Fairfax defeated at Pontefract, 1646.

Sir Marmaduke Langdale, who commanded a body of the royal forces, defeated the Parliamentarians under Lord Fairfax at Pontefract, and relieved that place. Notwithstanding the services rendered by Fairfax to Cromwell, he ultimately headed a party of the Presbyterians, who secretly entered into an engagement to destroy him. The administration of the Protector during the Commonwealth, both at home and abroad, had exhausted his revenues, so that he was left considerably in debt. No sooner was one conspiracy detected, than another was hatched; and to increase his calamity, he learned, upon reasoning principles, that his death was not only desirable, but his assassination would be a meritorious action. A book was published by one Colonel Titus, a man who had formerly been strenuously attached to Cromwell's cause, entitled, "Killing no Murder," and of all the pamphlets that appeared at the time, or have since issued from the press, that production was the most eloquent and masterly. "Shall we," said that popular declaimer, "who would not suffer the lion to invade us, tamely stand to be devoured by the wolf?" The Protector read that spirited production, and it is affirmed he was never seen to smile after.

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**MARCH THE SECOND.**

*Interview between King Stephen and Queen Maud, 1141.—The Parliament issued an Ordinance for England to put herself in a state of defense, 1642.*

After the defeat of King Stephen's forces near Lincoln, on which occasion that monarch had conducted

against the toleration of dissenters; declared the church was dangerously attacked by its enemies, and slightly defended by its false friends. He sounded the trumpet for the zealous, and exhorted the people to put on the whole armour of God. Sir Samuel Gerard, then Lord Mayor, countenanced that harangue; which, though very weak both in matter and style, was published under his protection, and extolled by the Tories as a masterpiece of elocution. Those Sermons owed all their celebrity to the complection of the times, and are now very deservedly neglected.

Dr. Sacheverel was tried before the peers in Westminster Hall, Queen Anne being present *incog.* for several days. In his way thither, he was attended by immense multitudes; and a meeting-house pulled down, and the materials burnt in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields. The Doctor having been found guilty by sixty-nine against fifty-nine voices, the Commons proceeded to the Upper House, and demanded judgment against Sacheverel. He was, in consequence, compelled to kneel at the bar while the Chancellor pronounced as follows: "That he should forbear to preach during three years, and his printed sermons be burnt before the Royal Exchange by the hangman, in presence of the Lord Mayor, &c." Thus terminated the prosecution of Dr. Sacheverel, whose discourses at Derby and St. Paul's had been pronounced malicious, scandalous, and seditious libels, highly reflecting upon her Majesty and her government, the late happy revolution and the Protestant succession, &c.


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"I ordered Marshal Sir William Beresford," says the Marquis of Wellington in his despatch, dated St. Sever, "to turn and attack the enemy's right, with the fourth division, under Lieutenant General Sir Lowry Cole, and the seventh division under Major General Walker, and Colonel Vivian's brigade of cavalry, while Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Picton should move along the great road leading from Peyrehourade to Orthez, and attack the heights on which the enemy's centre and left

stood, with the third and sixth divisions, supported by Sir Stapleton Cotton, with Lord Edward Somerset's brigade of cavalry. Major General Charles Baron Alten, with the light division kept up the communications, and was in reserve between those two attacks. I likewise desired Lieutenant General Sir Rowland Hill to cross the Gave, in order to turn and attack the enemy's left.

" Marshal Sir W. Beresford carried the village of St. Boes, with the fourth division under the command of Lieutenant General Sir Lowry Cole, after an obstinate resistance by the enemy ; but the ground was so narrow, that the troops could not deploy to attack the heights, notwithstanding the repeated attempts of Major General Ross and Brigadier General Vasconcello's Portuguese brigade ; and it was impossible to turn the enemy by their right, without an excessive extension of our line. I therefore so far altered the plan of the action, as to order the immediate advance of the third and sixth divisions, and then moved forward Colonel Barnard's brigade of the light division, to attack the left at the height, on which the enemy's right was posted. This attack, led by the 52nd regiment under Colonel Colborne, supported on their right by General Brisbane's and Colonel Kean's brigades, of the third division, aided by simultaneous attacks on the left from Major General Anson's brigade, and on the right by Lieut. General Sir Thomas Picton, with the remainder of the third and the sixth division, under Lieut. General Sir Henry Clinton, at length succeeded in dislodging the enemy from the heights, and ensured to us the victory.

" In the mean time, Lieut. General Sir Rowland Hill, had forced the passage of the Gave above Orthez, when perceiving the state of the action, he moved on immediately with the second division of infantry, under Generals Sir William Stewart's and Fane's brigade of cavalry, direct for the great road from Orthez to St. Sever, thus keeping upon the enemy's left, and leaving us in quiet possession of the field, the French retiring in excellent order."



**MARCH THE FIFTH.**

*The refractory Members of the House of Commons seized, 1629.—Battle of Barossa, 1811.*

Charles having sent for the Serjeant of the House, that officer was detained, in consequence of the doors being locked. He then dispatched the gentleman usher of the black rod with a message, but he was denied admittance until a protest was read, purporting, "That whosoever should introduce innovations in religion, or seek to establish Popery or Arminianism; or advise the taking tonnage or poundage, not sanctioned by Parliament, or pay the same, should be regarded as an enemy of the kingdom." The House then in great confusion adjourned to a certain day.

In consequence of such refractory conduct and imperative measures, warrants were issued by the Privy Council, for seizing certain members of the Parliament who were accounted most riotous, when Holles, Weston, Elliot, and Valentine, having appeared before the Council, refused to answer for what had been said and done in the Commons House, in consequence of which they were committed close prisoners to the Tower. From that moment, may be dated the commencement of determined hostility towards the King, who was never pardoned by the members of the Lower House, for what was deemed by them an unpardonable infringement of their parliamentary rights.

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General Graham determined on the immediate attack of the enemy, having the most implicit reliance on the bravery and discipline of his troops. For that purpose a powerful battery of ten guns began to play from the centre; while on the right was drawn up the brigade of guards, the flank battalion of the 28th, two companies of the second rifle corps, and part of the 67th regiment: the left being formed by a brigade of the Coldstream guards, and the flank battalion of Lieutenant-colonel Barnard's regiment.

The centre battery was directed against General Laval's division, which continued to advance, notwith-

standing it suffered severely, till it was received and checked by the left wing of the British. That force having stopped the progress of the French, advanced to the charge with the utmost intrepidity, and soon decided the defeat of General Laval's division. During that encounter, the eagle of the eighth regiment of light infantry, and one howitzer were taken.

General Rufin's division of the enemy was posted on a hill, and to oppose that corps, the right wing of the British directed its attack. The enemy confiding in superiority of numbers, and an advantageous position, encountered the English on the ascent of the hill, where the conflict raged most fiercely, and was extremely sanguinary. The struggle was however soon terminated, as the enemy ere long gave way, and in yielding up their previous position on the brow of the eminence, such movement greatly contributed to their confusion and slaughter. Thus terminated the affair at Barossa, which although obstinate in its nature, and brilliant, as regards the result, did not occupy more than an hour and a half, at the expiration of which time the enemy was in full retreat. General Graham did not think it advisable to pursue the French, owing to the exhausted state of his soldiers; after the battle his troops re-occupied their original position on the heights of Barossa, where they were joined by the two battalions of the Spaniards, to whom they had been entrusted when he first quitted them.

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MARCH THE SIXTH.

Union of England and Scotland, 1707.

Previous to the passing of the Bill for the Union of England and Scotland, and its receiving the assent of Queen Anne, very warm debates took place in both Houses of Parliament, and several protests were entered in the House of Peers. The method of electing Scotch noblemen to sit in the Upper House, was in particular disapproved, it being apprehended that such an alteration might be dangerous to the constitution.

himself with so much bravery, he, on being captured, was conducted to the presence of Maud; who, as no accommodation could be effected between them, committed that prince to Gloucester gaol, where he was laid in irons. A national synod was then convened, and Maud acknowledged Queen, after which the English people swore allegiance to her.

King Charles having refused to sanction the Militia Bill, which had been framed by the Commons, the latter came to a resolution of settling the same without him. They in consequence protested against his having any authority to command the militia, and declared that those who had put themselves in a posture of defence, concurred in the direction of both Houses, and were justifiable by law.

The King replied, that he had maturely considered the subject, and saw no reason why he should deviate from his original determination; that he however had no thoughts but what were bent on peace and justice to his people, which it was his intention to preserve, relying on the goodness of God for the preservation of himself and his rights.

On the King's answer being reported, the two Houses resolved: That the kingdom should be forthwith put in a posture of defence, that all the Lords Lieutenants in England should deliver in their commissions, and cancel the same as illegal; and they further commanded the Earl of Northumberland, who was Admiral, to equip the royal navy, and be in readiness to put to sea in their service. All those measures were adopted before his Majesty had raised any forces, or taken measures for his defence; which plainly demonstrated, that he did not or ever intended to commence hostilities against the two Houses. It was however some reflection on his prudence, that he should have been found so completely unprovided, and permit Parliament to possess themselves of his treasures, forts, fleets, and magazines, as well as levy his own militia against him. The King thus finding all attempts of an amicable nature unavailing, and

tated, and his head set upon the highest tower of London. He, notwithstanding, banished the sons of Edmund from prudential motives, and espoused Emma, widow of Ethelred, father of Edmund, by whom he had two sons, Sueno and Canute, the former of whom succeeded him in the kingdoms of Denmark and Norway, while the latter was supplanted on the English throne by Harold, surnamed Harefoot.

Though Canute gratified his ambition in obtaining the throne of England, he was at first compelled to make some very mortifying concessions, and in order to acquire the affections of the nobility, took every opportunity of indulging their avarice. However, as his power encreased, and his title acquired solidity, he resumed those grants he had made, and even put several nobles to death, fully aware that those who had betrayed their native prince, would not scruple to act in a similar manner towards himself in case of a favourable opportunity. He was no less severe in his exactions upon the lower orders of the people, levying on one occasion seventy-five thousand pounds upon the realm, and eleven thousand more on the city of London.



MARCH THE EIGHTE.

Death of King William the Third, 1702.

William perceiving his end approaching, the objects of his former care lay still next his heart; and the fate of Europe seemed to remove the sensations he might be supposed to feel for his own. The Earl of Albemarle arriving from Holland, he conferred with him in private on the posture of affairs abroad, and two days after, having received the sacrament from Archbishop Tenison, he expired in the fifty-second year of his age, after having reigned thirteen years.

He was in person of a middle stature, a thin body, and a delicate constitution; he had an aquiline nose, sparkling eyes, a large forehead, and a grave solemn aspect. He left behind him the character of a great

politician, though he had never been popular ; and a formidable general, though seldom victorious. His deportment was grave, phlegmatic, and sullen ; nor did he shew any fire but in the day of battle. He despised flattery, yet loved dominion, and was greater as the Stadtholder of Holland than as King of England ; having been a father to the one, and to the other a suspicious friend. His character and success serve to demonstrate, that moderate abilities will achieve the greatest purposes, if the objects aimed at be pursued with perseverance, and planned without unnecessary or ostentatious refinement.



MARCH THE NINTH.

Murder of David Rizzio, 1566.—Lord Capel beheaded, 1648.

On the ninth of March, says Dr. Robertson, Morton entered the court of the palace with a hundred and sixty men ; and without noise or resistance seized all the gates. While the Queen was at supper with the countess of Argyle, Rizzio, and a few other persons, the King suddenly entered the apartment by a private passage ; at his back was Ruthven clad in complete armour, and with that ghastly and horrid look which long sickness had given him : three or four of his most trusty accomplices followed him. Such an unusual appearance alarmed those who were present. Rizzio instantly apprehended that he was the victim at whom the blow was aimed ; and in the utmost consternation retired behind the Queen, of whom he laid hold, hoping that the reverence due to her person might prove some protection to him. The conspirators had proceeded too far to be restrained by any considerations of that kind. Numbers of armed men rushed into the chamber ; Ruthven drew his dagger, and with a furious mien and voice, commanded Rizzio to leave a place of which he was unworthy, and which he had too long occupied. Mary employed tears, entreaties, and threatenings, to save her

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favourite; but notwithstanding all these, he was torn from her by violence, and before he could be dragged through the next apartment, the rage of his enemies put an end to his life, piercing his body with fifty-six wounds.

The illegal High Court of Justice, as it was denominated, doomed to the block the brave and virtuous Lord Capel, who with the Duke of Hamilton and the Earl of Holland, after condemnation, suffered at Palace-yard, Westminster, when a proclamation was issued by the Parliament, declaring the people of England to be a free state. That document Alderman Reynoldson was commanded to proclaim in the city; but resolutely refusing to comply, he was committed to the Tower, and a new Lord Mayor chosen by a Common-hall, who with several other Aldermen, imbued with the same refractory spirit, willingly proclaimed the edict of the newly self-created Republic of England.

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**MARCH THE TENTH.**

*King Charles Dissolves the Parliament, 1629.*

The turbulent conduct pursued by the Members of the House of Commons, urged King Charles the First to repair to the House of Peers, where in a speech he declared, that the seditious conduct pursued by many of the Commons compelled him, however unwillingly, to dissolve Parliament, at the same time he warmly commended the behaviour of several Members in the House of Peers. The Parliament was in consequence dismissed after the speech from the throne, without the usual form being resorted to of sending for the Commons, nor was any act passed during that sessions. The King immediately after issued a Declaration, declaring the reasons why he had dissolved the Parliament, and in that document stated: "That he accounted it presumption in any to prescribe to him the time for convening a Parliament." That measure was immediately after followed by a prosecution of many of the Members, when

an information was exhibited in the Star Chamber against them for their undutiful speeches and turbulent proceedings during the late Sessions of Parliament. It was thus the unfortunate monarch embroiled himself with his Parliament at a period when Puritanism began to acquire great ascendancy over the public mind. Their alleged morality of conduct prompted that party to assume the name of Puritans, which, of all sects proved most dangerous to the cause of monarchy, as its tenets were calculated to support an imagined equality that reigns in a state of nature. The partisans of Puritanism being generally men of warm and obstinate tempers, that enthusiasm which prompted them to indulge in religious rhapsodies, fomented the same daring spirit as regarded the principles of civil liberty, then almost unknown in Europe. It is consequently little to be wondered at, that the King should endeavour to check the growth of opinions so unfavourable to his prerogative, and which ultimately brought on a sanguinary struggle that produced the downfall of the throne, and his own untimely fate.

**MARCH THE ELEVENTH.**

*The Duke of Clarence drowned in a butt of Malmsey,*  
1478.

Notwithstanding the services rendered by Clarence to his brother Edward in having deserted the cause of the Earl of Warwick, he had never been able to recover the King's friendship, forfeited by his former confederacy with that powerful nobleman called the King Maker. A pretext was in consequence sought to compass the ruin of Clarence, and the openness of his disposition soon afforded the wished for occasion. Edward the Fourth being one day engaged in a hunting party on the domain of Sir Thomas Burdet, a creature of the Duke's, the King chanced to kill a white buck which had been a great favourite with the owner, who being vexed at the loss, during the irritation of the moment wished that the horns of the deer were in the belly of the per-

son who had advised the King to such an insult. For that momentary ebullition of passion, Burdet was tried for his life, and publicly executed at Tyburn, and Clarence, on the death of his friend, vented his sorrow in bitter reproaches on the conduct of his brother, inveighing against the iniquity of such a sentence. Edward, highly offended at this freedom, or using it as a pretext against the Duke, caused him to be arraigned before the House of Lords, presenting himself in person as his accuser. In those days of confusion, every crime alleged by the prevailing party proved fatal; Clarence was therefore found guilty, when being granted a choice of the mode in which he would wish to suffer death, historians assert that he was privily drowned in a butt of Malmsey in the Tower, a singular election, which in all probability implied that the prince had entertained an extraordinary predilection for that beverage.



#### MARCH THE TWELFTH.

*James the Second landed at Kinsale, 1689.*

Having been furnished with five thousand men by the King of France, James landed at Kinsale in Ireland, from whence he proceeded to Dublin. There he was joined by the Earl of Tyrconnel, who had collected an army of thirty thousand foot, and eight thousand horse, in furtherance of that prince's attempt to regain the English crown. Independent of the troops above mentioned, France had also assisted James with fourteen ships of the line, six frigates, three fire-ships, and numerous transports, containing arms for forty thousand men; added to which he had money, plate, and equipages of every description. On that occasion the King was attended by Count D'Avaux, and many other Frenchmen of distinction.

James did not manifest any great degree of policy on his arrival in Ireland, as he continued to molest the Protestants, and even carried his religious animosity so far as to cause one of the magistrates of Cork to be executed in consequence of his having declared for the Prince of Orange.

## MARCH THE THIRTEENTH.

*Richard I. having regained his liberty, returned to England, 1194.—Battle of Stamford, 1470.—Sir John Borlase Warren defeated Admiral Linois, 1806.*

The releasement of Richard Cœur de Lion from captivity was performed with great ceremony at Mentz, in presence of the German nobility; the money was paid by Queen Eleanor, and hostages delivered as security for the liquidation of the residue, when the English monarch once more found himself restored to freedom. The Emperor, however, witnessed his liberation with a malignant heart, as he could not bear to behold one whom he had made his enemy, in the enjoyment of happiness; neither could he brook the being deprived of those advantages that might result from his longer detention. All his terrors from his subjects, yielded to the superior dictates of avarice; he therefore resolved to send Richard back to his former prison, and issued orders that he might be pursued and again arrested. Fortunately, however, for the English hero, the messengers arrived too late, as Richard, well acquainted with the perfidious and morose character of the Emperor, and secretly apprised of the offers tendered by the French King, had previously commanded that shipping should await him at the mouth of the Scheldt. On arriving, therefore, at the place of embarkation, the King proceeded instantly on board, and although the wind was adverse, stood out for sea; so that when his pursuers reached Antwerp, the bark that conveyed him was out of sight of the land.

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King Edward IV. having effected his escape, raised an army with all possible expedition, and marched to encounter the forces of King Henry VI. commanded by Warwick, which he met near Stamford, where a sanguinary battle ensued, that terminated in the overthrow of the latter, who, with the Duke of Clarence, fled for safety into Devonshire.

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Sir John Borlase Warren encountered Rear Admiral Linois' squadron off Madeira, which he engaged; when the result was the capture of the *Marengo* and *La Belle Poule*, constituting part of the French force in question.

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MARCH THE FOURTEENTH.

Dutch Islands captured by Rodney, 1781.

This day the gallant Admiral Rodney added to the glory of the English flag, by capturing the Dutch islands of Demerara and Essequibo.

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#### MARCH THE FIFTEENTH.

*Royal Academy established, 1768.—Victory obtained in North Carolina, 1781.*

Among the memorable events of the long and glorious reign of his late Majesty George III. was the establishment of the Royal Academy, that took place on the present day. To enter into a detail of the many talented individuals, as connected with the fine arts in this country, who have been indebted for their celebrity to this grand institution, would be superfluous, and we shall therefore content ourselves by naming a Sir Joshua Reynolds, a Barry, and a West, in order to show that England shall not only live to posterity in a commercial point of view, but must vie with the Italian, Lombard, and Flemish schools, having produced master-pieces in the sublimer walks of those several departments of the pictorial art.

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Earl Cornwallis obtained a signal victory, after sustaining considerable loss, over the American forces, commanded by General Green, at Guilford, in North Carolina.

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**MARCH THE SIXTEENTH.**

*Compact of Henry the Third with his Barons, 1258.*

*—Death of Alexander the Third of Scotland, 1285.*

The barons having conspired against Henry the Third, compelled him, at a parliament, called the *Mad Parliament*, this day assembled at Oxford, to delegate his royal power to twenty-four persons, twelve to be chosen by himself, and the rest by the peers; the King only reserving to himself the chief place in all public assemblies, being also compelled to swear that all foreigners should be expelled the realm of England. This was the first meeting upon record, at which representatives attended on the part of the Commons.

In 1249, Alexander the Third succeeded to the throne of Scotland, and having espoused the daughter of Henry the Third of England, aided him against his rebellious barons, and also sent pecuniary assistance to Saint Louis, of France, as well as troops to forward his expedition to the Holy Land. Alexander died of a fall from his horse, in the thirty-sixth year of his reign, leaving no issue.

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MARCH THE SEVENTEENTH.

Edward the Third's enactment respecting the Woollen Trade of England, and his Son created Duke of Cornwall, 1337.

At the period when the victorious Edward was making preparations for a war against France, he summoned a parliament, when it was enacted, that no wool, of English growth, should in future be transported beyond seas, and that all manufacturers of cloths should be admitted and encouraged from whatsoever foreign parts they might arrive. It was at the same time ordained, that no person should wear clothes made in foreign parts, except the King, Queen, and their progeny, and also that no one should be arrayed in foreign furs or silks, unless he was worth one hundred pounds per annum. From

the above enactment, we may infer that the woollen manufactures of this country were of the highest importance to the state at that early period, and there is little doubt but that the law in question was not only of beneficial consequences, but also tended to produce the strenuous measures which were subsequently adopted at various periods to protect that staple commodity of our land. At the same period, the King also conferred upon his eldest son, Prince Edward, the title of Duke of Cornwall, he being the first person in England who had been honoured by a Dukedom. When that ceremony took place, the title was conferred by a wreath being placed on his brows; a ring upon his finger, and a silver verge in his right hand; and since that time the eldest sons of the Kings of England are born Dukes of Cornwall. At the solemnity in question, Edward the Third also created six Earls, and twenty Knights.



MARCH THE EIGHTEENTH.

Death of Edward the Martyr, 979.

Edward, surnamed the Martyr, a natural son of Edgar, made a new breach to the succession, by usurping the crown from his brother Ethelred, who was the lawful heir of Edgar, by Elfrida, his Queen. The secular priests and monks again fell out in this reign; but Dunstan, supporting the latter, caused them to triumph over the former. This King reigned only three years, having been assassinated at Corfe Castle, by order of the Queen, his mother-in-law, from whence he derived the name of Martyr.



MARCH THE NINETEENTH.

The Bishops forbidden to Vote in Temporal Matters, 1640-1.

The Commons having voted, on the 10th instant, that no bishop should have a voice in parliament, or any judicial power in the Star Chamber, or assume to himself

the least authority in temporal matters, and that no clergyman should officiate in the commission of the peace, on the 19th March, the bishops and newly-created peers, in consequence of such previous resolution passed by the Commons, waved their right of voting in the Earl of Strafford's case, whose trial commenced on the 22d of this month.

This was among the many innovations in the established laws of the realm which preceded the commencement of open hostilities against King Charles the First, by his refractory parliament; and every fresh innovation was a deadly blow levelled at the royal prerogative, which the Commons were determined to overthrow.

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**MARCH THE TWENTIETH.**

*Death of King Henry IV., 1413, and of Sir Isaac Newton, 1727.*

As the constitution of Henry the Fourth decayed, his fears of losing the crown redoubled even to childish anxiety, as he could not be persuaded to sleep, unless the royal diadem were laid on his pillow. He resolved to take the cross and fight the cause of the pilgrims in Palestine, and even imparted his designs to a great council, demanding the opinion of his nobles relative to that intended journey; but his disorder encreasing to a violent degree, the King was obliged to lay aside his scheme, and prepare for a journey of much greater importance. In that situation, as he was one day in a violent paroxysm, the Prince of Wales took up the crown and carried it away, but the King soon after recovering his senses, and missing the diadem, demanded what was become of it? Being informed that the Prince of Wales had carried it off: "What," said the King, "would he rob me of my right before my death?" The Prince, however, just then entering the chamber, assured his father that he had no such motive in what he had done, and then proceeded to replace the crown where he had found it, on which having received his father's blessing, he dutifully retired. The King was taken with his last

fit, while at his devotions before the shrine of Saint Edward the Confessor, in Westminster Abbey, and from thence was conveyed to the Jerusalem chamber, upon which Henry remarked, that he then perceived a prophecy was fulfilling, which declared he should die in Jerusalem. Thus saying, and recommending his soul to his Maker, he soon after expired, in the forty-sixth year of his age, and the fourteenth of his turbulent reign.

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Isaac Newton, one of the greatest philosophers and mathematicians that the world ever produced, was descended from an ancient family, which had been seated for nearly three centuries on the manor of Wolsthorpe, near Grantham, in Lincolnshire, at which place this prodigy of science was born, on the Christmas-day of 1642. He lost his father while an infant, but his mother's brother, a clergyman in the vicinity, directed the affairs of the family for some time, and placed the young philosopher to school at Grantham. Having gone through a grammatical education, his mother took him home, intending that he should be brought up to occupy his paternal estate of about one hundred and twenty pounds a year, as his ancestors had done before him for ages. But, fortunately for the world, the peculiar genius of Newton began, even at that early age, to discover itself. His uncle accidentally found him in a hay-loft working a mathematical problem; and thus perceiving the impulse of the boy's mind for learning, judiciously resolved that it should not be diverted from its object. Newton was in consequence sent to Trinity College, Cambridge, where the penetrating eye of Dr. Isaac Barrow soon discovered the vast genius of his student, and their acquaintance ripened into a friendship which was propitious to the progress and fame of his eleve.

Euclid, beyond whose works the mathematical attainments of most learners never extend, was scarcely the study of a week to Newton. With an intuitive clearness of intellect, he understood the deepest problems of that author as soon as he had perused them. He therefore advanced at once into the higher regions of geome-

try; and it is no less astonishing than true, that he had laid the foundation of two immortal works, the *Principia* and *Optica*, before he had completed the twenty-fourth year of his age.

Such, however, was the steady judgment of Newton, and the amiable diffidence displayed as regarded his own powers, that he was elevated by no vanity, and waved all pretensions to public fame.

The most capital discoveries have as frequently been the result of fortuitous thought, as of patient investigation; for when a happy incident gives rise to an original idea, genius pursues it to its remotest consequences, and through all its ramifications. The theory of the universe, which Newton solidly demonstrated, is said to have been suggested by a very trivial circumstance. As he was sitting alone in a garden, the falling of some apples from a tree, led him into a speculation on the power of gravity; and he reflected, that as this power is not sensibly diminished at the remotest distance to which we can rise from the centre of the earth, it was reasonable to conclude that the same principle is extended through all matter. By pursuing that train of ideas, and comparing the periods of the several planets with their distances from the sun, Newton found, that if any power resembling gravity held them in their courses, its strength must decrease in proportion to the increased distance.

This inquiry, which afterwards produced the most sublime discoveries, was resumed again and again; and every experiment which the philosopher tried, and every appearance in nature confirming his theories, in 1687 his *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* were completed and published, under the auspices of the Royal Society. So great was Newton's modesty, that he did not choose to risk a publication of such high importance, without the concurrence of the most learned men in England, and the event justified his prudence. The book was at first far from meeting with that universal applause which it was destined ultimately to receive. The pleasing but visionary hypothesis of Descartes had then obtained full celebrity; and Newton's theories were too sublime to be comprehended at once, even by the acutest

minds. But no sooner were his principles understood, than they extorted general assent to their truth ; and the voice of applause rose with increased energy from every country where genuine science was diffused.

In 1703 he was chosen President of the Royal Society, and without introducing the slightest reflection on present or past times, it may be affirmed, that this office was never so respectably filled. He had previously been elected a member of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris, for the French, notwithstanding the predilection natural to every nation in favor of its own heroes and philosophers, soon relinquished the fanciful philosophy of their countryman, Descartes, for the solid principles of Newton.

At last his Optics appeared in 1704 ; and in this science he stands unrivalled and alone. In his fluxions and his principle of gravity, as applied to the solar system, there had been some obscure hints from others ; but in dissecting a ray of light into its primary constituent particles, which then admitted of no farther separation ; in the discovery of the different refrangibility of those particles when separated ; and, in short, in the whole mystery of Optics which he developed ; he was at once the original inventor, and the finisher. Together with his Optics, he published his Fluxions, which had also long engaged his attention : owing to an aversion to literary disputes, he concealed this discovery so long, that Leibnitz attempted to claim the merit of the original invention : but in this he was completely foiled by the zeal and industry of Newton's friends.

Queen Anne, as a testimony of her approbation of his exalted merit, conferred the honour of Knighthood on Newton, in 1705, and during the reign of George the First he received the most flattering attentions from Caroline, Princess of Wales ; who having a taste for philosophical inquiries, courted his conversation with amiable condescension, and was often heard to declare, that she considered herself happy in living in the same age with Sir Isaac Newton.

After enjoying a settled and uniform state of health, the result of temperance and regularity, to the age of



eighty, Sir Isaac began to be afflicted with a disorder, which was afterwards found to be incurable, and the attacks of which were sometimes so violent, that large drops of sweat followed each other down his face. Under these afflicting circumstances, his character, as a philosopher and as a Christian, was equally conspicuous. Not a murmur escaped from his lips: he dissembled the acutest pain, and in the intervals of ease, displayed all the cheerfulness and good humour which had ever been the constant residents of his breast. Nature being at last worn out, he resigned his breath, in the eighty-fifth year of his age; and was most deservedly honoured with a splendid funeral and monument in Westminster Abbey.



## MARCH THE TWENTY-FIRST.

*Martyrdom of Cranmer, 1558.—Defeat of Lord Astley, 1646.—Sir Edward Pellew's Victory, 1796.—Battle of Alexandria, 1801.—Alexandria Captured from the Turks, 1807.*

The Queen's revenge was only to be satiated in Cranmer's blood, and therefore Mary wrote an order to Dr. Cole to prepare a sermon to be preached, March 21, directly before his martyrdom, at St. Mary's, Oxford. Dr. Cole visited the Archbishop the day previous, and was induced to believe that he would publicly deliver his sentiments in confirmation of the articles to which he had subscribed. About nine in the morning of the day of sacrifice, the Queen's commissioners, attended by the magistrates, conducted the good and unfortunate Cranmer to St. Mary's Church. His torn dirty garb, the same in which they had habited him upon his degradation, excited the commiseration of the people. In the church he found a low, mean stage, erected opposite the pulpit, on which, being placed, he turned his face and fervently prayed to God. The church was crowded by persons of both persuasions, expecting to hear the justification of his late apostacy; the Catholics rejoicing, and the Protestants deeply wounded in spirit at the



deceit of the human heart. Dr. Cole, in his sermon, represented Cranmer as having been guilty of the most atrocious crimes ; he descanted on the horrors of such a death, bade him not to expect the support of God in his torments, or that masses would be said in the churches of Oxford for the repose of his soul.

Cranmer, with thoughts intent on a far better object than the empty threats of man, reached the spot already dyed with the blood of Ridley and Latimer. There he knelt for a short time in earnest devotion, and then arose, that he might undress and prepare for the fire. Two monks, who had been parties in prevailing upon him to abjure, now endeavoured to draw him off again from the truth, but he was steadfast and immovable to what he had just professed, and before publicly taught.

A chain had been provided to bind him to the stake, which, after being tightly encircled round his body, fire was communicated to the fuel, and the flames soon began to ascend. At that juncture the glorious sentiments of the martyr were made manifest ; for it was then, stretching forth his right hand, he held it, unshrinkingly in the fire, till it was burnt to a cinder, even before his body was injured, frequently exclaiming, " this unworthy right hand," alluding to his having previously signed his recantation ; and then cried, " Lord Jesus receive my spirit !" when the fury of the flames terminated his powers of utterance and existence. Thus did Cranmer lose a life of high sublunary elevation, of constant uneasiness, and of glorious martyrdom.

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Lord Astley having marched to join King Charles, at Oxford, with three thousand men, was defeated at Stow, on the Wold, in Gloucestershire, such having been the last regular body of troops that appeared in the field to advocate the cause of royalty.

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Ten French vessels were destroyed on the enemy's coast, by a squadron under the command of the brave and enterprising Sir Edward Pellew.

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The famous battle of Alexandria, in Egypt, was fought, on which occasion the French were defeated, with the loss of three thousand in killed, wounded, and prisoners. The glory of that victory was however sullied, by the gallant Sir Ralph Abercrombie receiving a mortal wound.

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Alexandria was captured from the Turks by the British forces commanded by Major-General Fraser.

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**MARCH THE TWENTY-SECOND.**

*Trial of Lord Strafford, 1641.*

To bestow the greatest solemnity upon the important trial of the Earl of Strafford, scaffolds were erected in Westminster Hall, where both Houses sat, the one as judges, the other as accusers. Beside the chair of state a close gallery was prepared for the king and queen, who attended during the whole proceedings. The articles of impeachment against the earl were twenty-eight in number, the substance of which was, that he had attempted to extend the king's authority at home, and had been guilty of several exactions in Ireland. But though four months were employed by the managers in framing the accusation, there appeared very little just cause of blame attachable to the accused, since the stretches of the king's power had been made before he entered into authority. However, the managers for the House of Commons pleaded against the Earl with a vehemence stronger than their reasonings, and summed up their arguments by insisting, that though each article taken separately did not amount to a proof, yet the whole considered conjunctively might be fairly concluded to carry conviction. This is a method of arguing frequently adopted in English courts of judicature, even to this day, and perhaps none can be more erroneous; for almost every falsehood may be found to have a multiplicity of weak reasons to support it. In this tumult of aggravation and clamour, Strafford himself, whose parts and wisdom had

been long respectable, stood unmoved and undaunted. He defended his cause with all the presence of mind, judgment, and sagacity, that could be expected from innocence and ability. His children were placed beside him, as he was thus defending his life and the cause of his master; and after having in a long and eloquent speech, delivered without premeditation, confuted all the accusations of his enemies: after he had shewn that during his government in Ireland, he had introduced the arts of peace among the savage portion of that people; after he had declared that though his measures in England might have been harsh, he shewed the necessity by which he was driven into them, since his coming over; in short, after clearly refuting the arguments adduced in regard to the accumulated force of his guilt, he thus drew to a conclusion:—"But, my Lords, I have troubled you too long; longer than I should have done, but for the sake of these dear pledges which a saint in heaven has left me." Upon this the Earl paused, dropped a tear, and looking upon his children proceeded—"What I forfeit for myself is a trifle; but that my indiscretions should attain to my posterity wounds me to the heart—pardon my infirmity—something I should have added, but I am not able, therefore let it pass. And now, my Lords, for myself; I have long been taught that the afflictions of this life are overpaid by that eternal weight of glory which attends the innocent; and so, my Lords, with the utmost tranquillity, I submit myself to your judgment, whether this judgment be life or death; not my will, but thine, O God, be done!"



#### MARCH THE TWENTY-THIRD.

*Martinico surrendered to the British, 1794.*

The forces under Sir Charles Grey having landed at Martinico, attacked Bourbon town, which was taken, when the whole island became subject to the British arms.

**MARCH THE TWENTY-FOURTH.**

*Death of Elizabeth, 1603.—Charles the First offers  
Reconciliation to the Parliament, 1646.*

Whatsoever were Elizabeth's personal defects, as a queen she is ever to be remembered with gratitude by the English. It is true, she carried her prerogative in Parliament to its highest pitch, so that it was tacitly allowed in that assembly, that she was above all laws, and could make or unmake them at her pleasure; yet still she was so wise and good, as seldom to exert that power which she claimed, and to enforce few acts of her prerogative which were not beneficial to the people. It is equally true, that the English, during her reign, were put in possession of no new or splendid acquisitions; but commerce was daily growing up amongst them, and the people began to find that the theatre of their truest conquests was, on the bosom of the ocean.

A nation which hitherto had been the object of every invasion, and a prey to every plunderer, now asserted its strength in turn, and became terrible to its invaders. The successful voyages of the Spaniards and Portuguese began to excite its emulation, and the English government fitted out several expeditions for discovering a shorter passage to the East Indies. The famous Sir Walter Raleigh, without any assistance from the state, colonized New England, while internal commerce was making equal improvements, and many Flemings, persecuted in their native country, found, together with their arts and industry, an easy and safe asylum in England.

Thus the whole island seemed as if roused from her long habits of barbarity; arts, commerce, and legislation began to acquire new strength every day: and such was the state of learning at the time, that some fix this period as the Augustan age in England. Sir Walter Raleigh and Hooker are considered as amongst the first improvers of our language. Spencer and Shakespeare are too well known as poets to be praised here; but of all mankind, Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam, who flourished in this reign, deserves, as a philosopher, the highest applause; his style is copious and correct, and

his wit only surpassed by his learning and penetration. If we look through history, and consider the rise of kingdoms, we shall scarcely find one instance of a people becoming in so short a time, wise, powerful, and happy. Liberty, it is true, still continued to fluctuate: Elizabeth knew her own power, and stretched it to the very verge of despotism; but now that commerce was introduced, liberty soon after followed: for there never was a nation perfectly commercial, that submitted long to endure the shackles of slavery.

Charles the First, between the 24th of December and the present day (March 24th), by ten several messages and letters, offered to present himself in order to reside with the Parliament, and disband all his forces, provided his followers had liberty ensured them to return to their homes, and live unmolested; yet, notwithstanding such a reasonable proposal, tendered too by their legitimate monarch, the hostile and vindictive Commons refused acquiescence.



#### MARCH THE TWENTY-FIFTH.

##### *Accession of King Robert Bruce, 1305.*

No Prince was ever more indebted to his nobles than Robert Bruce. Their valour conquered the kingdom, and placed him on the throne, and his gratitude and generosity bestowed on them the lands of the vanquished. Property has seldom undergone greater or more sudden revolutions than those to which it was subject at that time in Scotland. Edward the First having forfeited the estates of most of the ancient Scottish barons, granted them to his English subjects. These were expelled by the Scots, and their lands seized by new masters. Amidst such rapid changes, confusion was unavoidable: and many possessed their lands by titles extremely defective. During one of those truces between the two nations, occasioned rather by their being weary of war, than desirous of peace, Bruce formed a

scheme for checking the growing power and wealth of the nobles. He commanded them to appear, and show by what tenures they held their lands. They assembled accordingly, and on the question being put, every individual started up at once, and drawing their swords, the whole exclaimed, "by these we acquired our lands, and with these will we defend them." The King intimidated by their boldness, prudently dropped the subject; but so deeply did they resent such an attack upon their order, that notwithstanding Robert's popular and splendid virtues, it occasioned a dangerous conspiracy against his life.

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MARCH THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

*Richard the First mortally wounded at Chaluz, 1199.
—Naval victory of Sir John Borlase Warren, 1796.*

Aymer, Viscount of Limoges, a vassal of the crown, had taken possession of a treasure which was found by one of his peasants, in digging a field, when, in order to secure the remainder, he sent a part of it to the King. Richard, as superior head, sensible that he had a right to the whole, insisted that it should be delivered up; and on refusal, attacked the Castle of Chaluz, where he understood the treasure had been deposited. On the fourth day of the siege, as he was riding round the place, to observe where the assault might be given with the fairest hopes of success, he was aimed at by one Bertram de Jordan, an archer from the castle, and pierced in the shoulder with an arrow. The wound was not in itself dangerous; but an unskilful surgeon, endeavouring to disengage the weapon from the flesh, so rankled the wound, that it mortified, and brought on fatal symptoms. Richard, when he found his end approaching, made a will, in which he bequeathed the kingdom, with all his treasure, to his brother John, except a fourth part, which he distributed among his servants. He also ordered that the archer who had shot

him, should be brought into his presence, and demanded what injury he had done him, that he should take away his life? The prisoner answered, with deliberate intrepidity, " You killed with your own hands my father and my two brothers ; and you intended to have hanged me. I am now in your power, and my torments may satisfy your revenge, but I will endure them with pleasure, since it is my consolation that I have rid the world of a tyrant." Richard, struck with this answer, ordered the soldier to be presented with one hundred shillings, and set at liberty ; but Marcade, the General who commanded under him, like a true ruffian, ordered the man to be fled alive, and then hanged. Richard died on the 26th of the ensuing April, in the tenth year of his reign, and the forty-second of his age, leaving only one natural son, Philip, behind him.

Sir John Borlase Warren captured four French vessels, bound to Brest, together with the Etoile, ship of war, of thirty guns.



MARCH THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.

Death of James the First, 1625.

James the First was seized with a tertian ague, which, when his courtiers assured him, from the proverb, that it was health for a King, he replied, that the proverb meant for a young King. After some fits, James found himself extremely weakened, and sent for Prince Charles, whom he exhorted to persevere in the Protestant religion ; then preparing with decency and courage to meet his end, the monarch expired, after a long reign over England of twenty-two years, in the fifty-ninth year of his age. With regard to foreign negotiations, James neither understood or cultivated them ; and perhaps in a kingdom so situated as England, domestic politics are alone sufficient. This reign was marked with none of the splendours of triumph, nor no new con-

quests or acquisitions; but the arts were nevertheless silently and successfully going on to improvement. Reason was extending her influence, and discovering to mankind a thousand errors in religion, in morals, and in government, that had long been revered by blind submission. The Reformation had produced a spirit of liberty, as well as of investigation among all ranks of mankind, and taught the people that no precedents could sanctify fraud, tyranny, or injustice. James instructed them by his own example, to argue upon the nature of the King's prerogative, and the extent of the subject's liberty. He first began by setting up the prescriptive authority of Kings, against the natural privileges of the people: but when the subject was submitted to a controversy, it was soon after seen that the arguments of the monarch were on the weakest side.

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**MARCH THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

*Death of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, 1801.—Capture of the Danish West India Islands, 1801.*

That brave and experienced officer, General Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who had been wounded at the battle of Alexandria, on the 21st, yielded up his heroic spirit, having been transported on board the ship of Admiral Keith.

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The Danish West India Islands of Saint Bartholomew, Saint Martin, Saint Thomas, and Saint Croix, were surrendered to the British arms.

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MARCH THE TWENTY-NINTH.

The Battles of Towton, 1641; and Cheryton Down, 1644.—Audience of the French Ambassador with the Lord Protector Cromwell.

At the period when the battle of Towton was fought,

the army of Henry the Sixth consisted of sixty thousand, and that of Edward the Fourth of forty-eight thousand men. On the 12th of March, being nine days subsequent to Edward's accession to the crown, he put himself at the head of his forces, and marched to encounter Queen Margaret, whom he met this day (29th) being Palm Sunday. After a most obstinate and sanguinary conflict, Edward obtained a brilliant victory over the forces of his adversary at Towton, in Yorkshire, on which occasion the number of slain, according to different historians, amounted to 36,766, when Henry, with his queen and son, fled precipitately into Scotland, where, to ensure amity from the monarch, Berwick was surrendered up to the Scottish crown. Among the slain was Lord Clifford, who fell while in the act of gallantly defending a pass, this afflicting battle for England having lasted from nine in the morning till night.

The royal forces under the command of Lord Hopton, were defeated by Sir William Waller, at Cheryton Down, near Winchester, in which action Lord John Stuart, brother to the Duke of Richmond, and general of the king's horse, with Sir John Smith, commissary-general, were killed.

Monsieur Bordeaux, ambassador extraordinary from the Court of France, was presented to the Protector Oliver Cromwell, having made his public entrance on the 27th. During the audience which took place at the Banqueting-house, Whitehall, the French envoy extolled the virtues of his highness, whose friendship he warmly solicited, saying:—"That Divine Providence, after so many calamities, could not deal more favourably by the nations, or cause them to forget their miseries with greater satisfaction, than in submitting them to so just a government." Such was the fulsome adulation paid by a despotic court to a simple individual, who having, by courage and artifice, attained to the height of power, made himself dreaded by foreigners, though the nation was branded as a regicidal race.

MARCH THE THIRTIETH.

The Marquis of Wellington entered Paris, 1814.

After a series of gallant exploits performed in the Peninsula, in the course of which the Marquis of Wellington had displayed skill, prudence, and valour, in counteracting the plans, and defeating Marshal Soult, in different grand encounters, his lordship set off for Paris, to join the triumphant allies on their first entrance into the French capital.

**MARCH THE THIRTY-FIRST.**

Victory obtained by Sir Edward Pellew, 1795.

Sir Edward Pellew, then commanding his Majesty's ship *Indefatigable*, having a squadron under his orders, took and destroyed fifteen sail of French ships, bound from Brest to Bordeaux.

**APRIL THE FIRST.**

Earl Strongbow landed in Ireland, 1172.

Dermont, king of Leinster, having committed a rape upon the wife of O'Rourke, king of Bresinia, was forced at last to fly into England, and passed from thence to Henry the Second, then in Aquitain. He offered to submit himself and his kingdom to that prince, upon condition that he would assist him to recover it. The king having agreed to his request, and induced Richard Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, with Fitz Stephens, and the Fitzgeralds, to engage in the contest, Wexford was soon surrendered, Dublin taken, while Strongbow in person conquered and took Waterford. They had comparatively but a handful of men. Strongbow, by his compact of marriage with Dermont's daughter, sought to be monarch of Ireland, but his sovereign, Henry the Second, controlled those ambitious views, who, notwithstanding, granted him the province of Leinster. A synod of the

clergy then assembled at Cashel, confirmed the kingdom of Ireland to Henry the Second, in 1172, who constituted his youngest son, John, lord of that country, designing, also, to have vested in him the sovereignty over the same, having obtained the pope's concurrence with that measure.

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**APRIL THE SECOND.**

*Rebellion in Ireland broke out, 1798.—Surrender of Copenhagen, 1801.*

The first symptoms of the Irish Rebellion manifested themselves in the neighbourhood of Cork, where a party of the insurgents was defeated by a military detachment.

The action before Copenhagen began at five minutes past ten, the van being led by Captain Murray, of the *Edgar*, who proved himself a noble example of intrepidity, which was imitated by every officer and man in the fleet. The loss in such a battle was necessarily very heavy, the total number in killed and wounded having amounted to nine hundred and forty-three. Lord Nelson, in his report of the action to Sir Hyde Parker, bestowed the warmest panegyrics upon all concerned; and on none more than those officers and seamen whose utmost exertions had proved ineffectual. The carnage on board the Danish ships was also excessive, being calculated by the commander-in-chief, Olfert Fischer, at one thousand eight hundred souls. This may have in part occurred from the vessels being crowded with men; while, owing to some singular neglect, originating in the idea that the wounded being so near the city, might receive immediate accommodation, there was not a single surgeon on board the block ships; the consequence was that when boarded by the British, hundreds of those unfortunate Danes were found scattered over the decks bleeding to death.

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APRIL THE THIRD.

Commencement of hostilities between the Barons and Henry the Third, 1258.—Edward the Black Prince defeated the Earl of Transmar, 1367.—Shakespeare died, 1616.

King Henry the Third, accompanied by Prince Ed-

ward, having repaired to Amiens in order to meet King Louis of France, returned to England, and called a parliament together at Oxford; but the Barons recommenced hostilities, when the King gained several advantages over them, and marched to London, but was refused any assistance. The monarch repaired from thence to Lewes, in Sussex, where the Earl of Leicester presented a respectful petition to his Majesty, which was rejected by Henry with the greatest contempt; upon which, on the twelfth of May following, the Barons openly renounced their fealty.

Peter, King of Castile, having been deposed by his subjects, Edward the Black Prince marched his forces into Spain, where he encountered the Earl of Trastamar at Nejara; and after a sanguinary conflict, gained the victory. The result was the restoration of the monarch to his throne; which is, perhaps, the only act of Edward's life that does not reflect honor to his memory, as the potentate in question was, on account of his tyranny and brutal conduct, denominated Peter the Cruel.

It is rather singular that, while correct accounts of most of Shakspeare's poetical contemporaries are handed down to us, so little should be known, for a certainty, respecting this mighty master of the histrionic art. The various commentators on the works of our bard have spared no pains in making the necessary researches, yet their industry has been but ill requited; as little more is known of this wonderful creature, than his being born at Stratford on Avon, in April, 1564, where he was reared at the Free School; and, when young, married the daughter of a Mr. Hathaway, a substantial yeoman in the neighbourhood of that town. From the period in question, the annals of Shakspeare are, for the most part conjectural; as he is by some represented as coming to London in a state of indigence, having been compelled to fly his native place in consequence of being concerned with other young men in a frolic, when a deer was stolen from one Sir Thomas Lucy, who pro-

secuted the depredators. Others conceive that the father of our poet, who was a wool-stapler of repute, did not permit his son to visit the metropolis without the means of support ; in short, so much mystery is attachable even to the mental acquirements of Shakspeare, that volumes have been written with a view to prove whether or not he possessed a knowledge of the Latin language. It appears, however, certain, that the close of our dramatist's life was spent in ease, retirement, and the conversation of his friends at his native town, whither he repaired, after acquiring fame and fortune in the capital. Shakspeare died in the fifty-third year of his age, and was interred in the north side of the chancel, in the great church at Stratford, where his monumental effigies appear against the wall, representing his hands reposing on a cushion. To pourtray the character of this prodigy of nature is beyond our power ; and we shall therefore content ourselves by saying, that upon all the passions incidental to the human mind, no writer, ancient or modern, has surpassed him in their delineation ; and that, to use his own emphatic words, " We ne'er shall look upon his like again."



APRIL THE FOURTH.

Edmund Ironsides crowned, 1016.

Edmund, for his great strength surnamed Ironsides, was the son of Ethelred, and a valiant prince. He contended for the crown, against Canute the Dane, son of Sueno, deceased, when, after great slaughter on both sides, it was agreed to terminate the dispute by single combat, in the face of their armies, at Alney, an island on the river Severn, near the city of Gloucester. Canute being over-matched and wounded by Edmund, the two princes cordially embraced each other, and agreed to divide the kingdom, when the south of England fell to Edmund's share, and the north to Canute. Edmund, however, being soon after assassinated by the treachery of one Edric, Canute seized upon the whole kingdom ;

and the former having only reigned seven months, was buried at Glastonbury, leaving two sons, Edward and Edmund.

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**APRIL THE FIFTH.**

*Peace ratified with Holland, 1654.*

After a long and sanguinary war, during which the maritime prowess of England attained to a pitch of splendour previously unknown, a peace, glorious for this country, was signed by the ambassadors of the States of Holland. By the articles in question, it was stipulated that the Dutch should make good all damages sustained by the British for the preceding thirty years. They also consented to strike their flag to English ships, to pay three hundred thousand pounds for the dilapidations they had occasioned at Amboyna, and deliver up the island of Poleron, in the East Indies. This ratification of peace was presented to the Protector Cromwell in a silver box.

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APRIL THE SIXTH.

Surrender of Badajoz, 1812.

On this day, the breaches in the fortifications of Badajoz regarded as practicable, were effected; and Lord Wellington determined to commence the assault on the close of night. The plan for the attack was conceived with great skill, and executed with equal bravery and success. Lieutenant General Picton was ordered to assail the castle of Badajoz by escalade, having under his command the third division; and the ravelin of St. Roque, on the left, was equally to be attacked by a detachment from the fourth division, under Major Wilson. The remainder of that force, and of the light division, under the command of Major General Colville, were ordered to attack the breaches which had been effected in the bastions of La Trinidad and Saint Maria, as well as the curtain by which those

bastions were connected. A false attack, as in the case of Ciudad Rodrigo, was also resolved upon and its management committed by Lord Wellington, to Lieutenant General Leith, who was instructed to convert the same into a real assault if circumstances should prove favourable.

Success having attended those movements, and the castle which commanded Badajoz, as well as the town itself, being in possession of our troops, the governor, General Philippon, retired to fort St. Christoval, with his staff, and the remainder of the garrison; when, finding all further resistance vain, he surrendered. At the commencement of the siege, the garrison had consisted of five thousand men, one thousand two hundred of whom were killed or wounded during the operations, besides those who fell in the assault of the place. The total loss of the British and Portuguese army during the siege was estimated at seventy-two officers, and nine hundred and sixty-three rank and file killed, with three hundred and six officers, and three thousand, four hundred, and eighty-one rank and file wounded, and sixty-three missing.

APRIL THE SEVENTH.

Commencement of the South Sea Scheme, 1719.—Peace concluded with America, 1784.

The celebrated South Sea Scheme, whereby such multitudes were, from a state of affluence, reduced to beggary, began its illusory operations on this day, which continued rapidly encreasing until the end of June, and by the twenty-ninth of September sunk into nothingness.

The preliminary articles of peace between his Britannic Majesty and the kings of France and Spain, having been signed at Versailles, on the 20th of January, 1783, an armistice was concluded with Holland on the 10th of February, and the definitive treaty of peace between Great Britain, France, Spain, and the United States of

America, settled on the third of September following, when its final ratification with America arrived on this day. Thus terminated that sanguinary war, which, although disastrous to the interests of Great Britain, gave a signal proof of the incalculable means she possessed in a pecuniary point of view, and in various instances displayed the valour of her sons both by land and sea.



APRIL THE EIGHTH.

Marriage of his present Majesty George the Fourth, then Prince of Wales, 1795.—Victory obtained by Sir John Borlase Warren, 1796.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, now George the Fourth, espoused the Princess Caroline of Brunswick, which ceremony took place in the Chapel Royal of Saint James's Palace.

One French ship of war, and a numerous fleet of merchantmen were captured by a squadron under the command of Sir John Borlase Warren.



APRIL THE FIFTH.

Coronation of Henry the Fifth, 1413.—Death of Edward the Fourth, 1433.—Death of Lord Bacon, 1626.—Lord Lovat executed, 1747.

Henry, surnamed of Monmouth, eldest son of Henry the Fourth, and Mary de Bohun, youngest daughter of the Earl of Hereford, succeeded his father, and was crowned at Westminster, upon which occasion he granted a general pardon for all crimes, excepting murder and rape. Previous to assuming the reins of government, this wise and valiant prince dismissed his former profligate associates, and performed penance for his father's crimes, particularly his participation in the murder of Richard the Second, whose corpse he caused to be removed to Westminster Abbey, where it was inter-

red with the greatest funeral pomp. The only stain upon the character of this monarch was, the countenance he afforded to the persecutions that were instituted against the Lollards, a race of sectarians, whose principles were very similar to the tenets subsequently promulgated by Luther.

"The death of Henry the Fourth," says Goldsmith, "gave the people but very little concern, as he had always governed them rather by their fears than their affections. But the rejoicings made for the succession of his son, notwithstanding his extravagancies, were manifest and sincere. In the very height and madness of the revel, he would often give instances of the noblest disposition; and though he did not practise the virtues of temperance, he always shewed that he esteemed them. But it was his courage which, in that martial age, chiefly won the people's affection and applause. Courage and superstition then made up the whole system of human duty; nor had the age any other idea of heroism but what was the result of this combination."

The close of Edward's life was spent in riot and debauchery; in gratifications that are pleasing only to the narrow mind; in useless treaties with France, in which he was ever deceived; and in empty threats against the monarch who had so deceived him. His parliament, which became the mere ministers of his will, consented, at his request, to a war with France, at a time when his alliances upon the continent were so broken, that it was impossible for it to succeed. The people seemed equally pleased with the prospect of an expedition, which, without serving, could only tend to impoverish the nation; and great hopes were revived of once more conquering France. While all were thus occupied with hope or distrust, and while Edward was employed in making preparations for that enterprize, he was seized with a distemper, of which he expired, in the forty-second year of his age, and counting from his first usurpation of the throne from Henry the Sixth, in the twenty-third of his reign. The character of this prince is easily summed up. His best qualities were courage and beauty; his

bad, a combination of all the vices. Besides five daughters, Edward left two sons, Edward Prince of Wales, his successor, then in his thirteenth year, and Richard Duke of York, in his seventh.

After Lord Bacon's disgrace, he seems to have been perfectly cured of ambition; and withdrew to that literary ease and retirement for which nature had adapted him, when he devoted the last years of his life to the noblest studies that could engage the mind of man. While he was prosecuting some discoveries in experimental philosophy near Highgate, this great philosopher was suddenly taken ill; and being conveyed to the Earl of Arundel's house in the neighbourhood, after a week's illness, there breathed his last, on the 9th of April, 1628. By his lady, a daughter of Alderman Barnham, of London, whom he married when near forty years old, he left no issue, and his title of course became extinct. Lord Bacon was buried in St. Michael's church at St. Albans, and for some time lay without a stone to mark his name, till the gratitude of Sir Thomas Meautys, who had formerly been his secretary, erected the monument to a memory which can never die.

In person, Lord Verulam was of the middling stature; his forehead broad and open, was early stamped with the marks of age; his eyes were brisk and penetrating, and his whole appearance venerably pleasing.

This being the day appointed for the execution of Lord Lovat, he awoke about three in the morning, and was heard to pray with great devotion; at five he rose, and called for a glass of wine and water; he then sat and read till seven, when he called for another glass of wine; at eight prepared to dress himself, and provided a purse to put the money in, which he designed for the executioner. About half-past nine he ate heartily of minced veal, ordering coffee and chocolate for his friends, whose health he drank in wine and water. At eleven o'clock, the Sheriffs sent to demand his Lordship, upon which he desired the gentlemen to retire for a few minutes while he prayed; which

being immediately complied with, he, after a little time, recalled them, saying, "I am ready."


When his Lordship was ascending the stairs to the scaffold, assisted by two warders, he looked round, and seeing a great concourse of people, "God save us," said he, "why should there be so much bustle about taking off an old grey head, that cannot go up three steps without three bodies to support it?" Turning about and observing one of his friends much dejected, he clapped him on the shoulder, saying, "Cheer up thy heart, man, I am not afraid! then why should you?" As soon as he came upon the scaffold, he enquired for the executioner, to whom he presented ten guineas in a purse; and then desiring to see the axe, felt its edge, and remarked that he believed it would do.

Being placed too near the block, the executioner desired his Lordship to remove a little further back, which request, with the warder's assistance, was immediately complied with; and his neck being properly placed, he then told the executioner, he would say a short prayer, and give the signal by dropping his handkerchief. In that posture Lord Lovat remained about half a minute, and then throwing his handkerchief on the floor, the executioner at one blow severed his head from his body, which was received in the cloth, and, together with his corpse, put into the coffin and carried in a hearse back to the Tower. There it remained till four o'clock, when it was conveyed away by an undertaker, in order to be sent to Scotland, and deposited in his own tomb in the church of Kirk-hill; permission, however, not being granted, as had been expected, it was again carried back to the Tower, and interred near the bodies of the other decapitated Lords.

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**APRIL THE TENTH.**

*Engagement between the President and Little Belt, 1811.—Battle of Toulouse, 1814.*

A very desperate action took place near Cape Henry, in North America, between a British sloop, called the



Little Belt, commanded by Captain Bingham, and the American frigate, the President, Commodore Rogers.

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The continued fall of rain that impeded the advance of the allied army had given time to Marshal Soult to prepare for the defence of Toulouse; of which opportunity, he immediately took signal advantage. The situation of that place is very strong, being surrounded on three sides by the Garonne, and the celebrated canal of Languedoc; and as it possesses an ancient wall, the French engineers found it easy to construct *têtes de pont*, commanding the approaches by the canal and the river, in order to support them by musketry and artillery from the walls. They had besides fortified a commanding height to the eastward, with fine redoubts; but as the roads from the Arriege to Toulouse had become impassable for cavalry or artillery, and nearly so for infantry, no alternative remained but to attack the French in that formidable position.

Until the 8th of April, it was found impossible to move any part of the British army across the Garonne; but, on that day, the Spanish corps of Don Manuel Freyze crossed the right of the river with some British hussars, who drove a superior body of the enemy's cavalry from a village on the small river Ers, which falls into the Garonne at a considerable distance from the town.

Between that stream and the canal of Languedoc, were the fortified heights which constituted the chief strength of the enemy's position. It was therefore resolved that Marshal Freyze should storm in front, and Marshal Beresford march up the Ers to turn the enemy's right, while Sir Thomas Picton threatened the *têtes de pont* on the canal to the left. These operations on the right of the Garonne were also to be supported by a simultaneous attack of Sir Rowland Hill's corps, on the *têtes de pont* formed by the suburbs on the left of that river. The 9th elapsed in preparations for those several attacks; but on the 10th, the whole plan was carried into full effect, when Marshal Beresford, with the fourth and sixth divisions, carried the height of

Monblanc, and forced his way to the point at which he turned the enemy's right. The Spanish corps then moved to attack in front, but was repulsed and pursued to some distance; however, Marshal Beresford had carried the redoubts which covered the enemy's right, and established himself on the heights. After a short lapse of time, the Spaniards were re-formed, and the artillery left at Monblanc was brought up. The Marshal then continued his movements along the heights, and stormed the next redoubts; when the enemy being driven from them, made a desperate effort to regain that position, during which, the redoubts on the left were equally carried by the British troops, while the Spaniards attacked in front. Such were the principal operations: all of which having succeeded on the close of day, the French troops were closely hemmed in, and the allies established on three sides of Toulouse, the road of Carcassone being the only practicable route they left open. By that road, therefore, Marshal Soult drew off the remainder of his forces in the course of the night of the 11th, and Lord Wellington triumphantly entered Toulouse the following morning.



#### APRIL THE ELEVENTH.

*King Henry VI. made prisoner, 1471.—Sir Thomas Wyatt decapitated, 1554.—Lord Bellasis defeated by Fairfax at Selby, 1644.—King William and Queen Mary crowned, 1689.*

Although Edward's party was repressed, it was by no means destroyed; for although the prince was an exile in Holland, he had many Yorkists determined to espouse his cause in the field; wherefore after an absence of nine months, being seconded by a small body of troops, granted him by the Duke of Burgundy, Edward ventured to make a descent at Ravenspur, in Yorkshire. At first the prince was but coldly received by the English; yet his numbers quickly increased on their march, while his extreme modesty and well feigned humility, endeared him still more to the partisans. The Londoners at that time, uni-

formly ready to admit the most powerful, opened their gates to receive him ; when the pusillanimous Henry once more found himself dethroned, and committed to his former imprisonment in the Tower of London.

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The projected marriage of Queen Mary with Philip II. of Spain, gave great umbrage to many leading personages in England, and among the rest Sir Thomas Wyatt, a Roman Catholic, appeared in open rebellion ; and at the head of four thousand insurgents, marched from Kent to Hyde Park, publishing a declaration against the Queen's evil counsellors, and the Spanish match. His first aim was to make himself master of the Tower, but his rash conduct proved his overthrow ; for marching through the narrow streets of London without suspicion, the Earl of Pembroke took care to block up the way in his rear, by means of trenches that were dug, chains thrown across the streets, and guards stationed at all the avenues to prevent his retreat. In this manner Sir Thomas advanced ; and when he imagined that he was on the point of reaping the fruits of his bold design, found to his utter confusion, that he could neither advance nor recede ; in addition to which, the citizens, from whom he had expected a co-operation, not appearing to join him, he lost all his courage and presence of mind, and yielded at discretion without striking a blow. The Earl of Suffolk, who had also risen in arms, was so vigorously pursued by the Earl of Huntingdon, that he found himself compelled to disband his followers ; and being discovered, was, with Sir Thomas Wyatt, and several of their adherents, executed.

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Lord Fairfax and his son having encountered Colonel Bellasis, governor of York, at Selby, there made him prisoner, with many of his officers and sixteen hundred men, with four pieces of cannon, two thousand stands of arms, and upwards of five hundred horses ; for which signal advantage, the Parliament at London ordered a public Thanksgiving.

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King William the Third and Queen Mary, were crown-

ed at Westminster with all due solemnity by the Bishop of London, and on the same day proclaimed at Edinburgh, where the Convention had declared the throne to be vacant, and voted the Prince and Princess of Orange, King and Queen, according to the precedent which had been set them by England.



#### APRIL THE TWELFTH.

*Lady Jane Gray executed, 1554.—Rodney obtained a brilliant victory over Count de Grasse, 1782.*

The virtuous, the beautiful, and all accomplished Lady Jane Gray, a victim of the ambition of her own and her husband's father, at the fatal moment of her decapitation, betrayed a stoicism and resignation so extraordinary, as to excite excess of pity, and enthusiastic veneration. On the morning of the execution of that ill-fated princess, her husband, the Lord Guilford Dudley, desired permission to see her; which she, however, refused, well aware that a parting scene would be too tender for her fortitude to encounter. Lord Dudley was the first to suffer; and as the Lady Jane was proceeding to the scaffold, in order to share a similar fate, she met the officers bearing the headless body of her beloved lord streaming with blood, in order to be buried in the chapel of the Tower. Without testifying any emotion at the horrid spectacle, she bade the bearers halt; and after eying the corpse, heaved a deep sigh, and then proceeded with a firm step to meet her fate. John Gage, constable of the Tower, as he led the victim, entreated that she would bestow on him some present, that he might preserve it as a perpetual memorial of her; when the Lady Gray presented him her tablets, whereon she had just written three sentences on beholding her husband's dead body, one in Greek, another in Latin, and the third in English, importing, that she trusted the Almighty and posterity would do his and her own cause justice. On the scaffold she made a speech, wherein she alleged, that her offence did not consist in having compassed the crown, but not rejecting it with sufficient reso-

lution; that she had erred less through ambition than filial obedience; that she freely accepted death as an atonement to the injured state, and was ready to testify by her blood, that innocence is no plea in extenuation of deeds that tend to injure the community. After having thus delivered her mind, she caused herself to be disrobed by her female attendants, and with a steady and serene countenance delivered her neck to the blow of the executioner.

Sir George Bridges Rodney, on his passage to relieve Gibraltar, fell in with, and after a few hours chase, captured the whole of a Spanish convoy from St. Sebastian, bound for Cadiz, under escort of seven ships of war belonging to the royal Caraccas company. The following were the Spanish ships of war captured on that occasion:—

|                 |              |          |
|-----------------|--------------|----------|
| The Guipuscaio, | 64 Guns..... | 550 Men. |
| — San Carlos,   | 32 — .....   | 200 —    |
| — San Rafel,    | 30 — .....   | 155 —    |
| — Santa Teresa, | 28 — .....   | 150 —    |
| — San Bruno,    | 26 — .....   | 140 —    |
| — San Fermia,   | 16 — .....   | 60 —     |
| — San Vincente, | 10 — .....   | 40 —     |

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|-----------------|-----------|
| Total Guns, 206 | 1295 Men. |
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APRIL THE THIRTEENTH.

King Edward II. removed to Berkley Castle, 1327.

The deposed King Edward the Second, who had remained for a time incarcerated at Kenelworth Castle, was removed from thence to Berkley Castle, in order to endure greater severity than his late keeper chose to inflict upon his royal captive. In his removal thither, the wretched monarch was first conducted to Corfe Castle, and thence to Bristol, under the conduct of Sir John Maltravers and Sir Thomas Gurney, both men of the most brutal natures.

During that painful journey, the King was subjected to a thousand indignities; and in order to hold him in de-

riston, was even crowned with straw, compelled to ride during the night without being permitted to repose, and scantily covered with raiment in order to subject his person to the chilly damps of night. They further caused that deserted prince to be shaved in an open field with water procured from a stinking ditch, upon which Edward shed a torrent of tears, and vowed that he would be shaved with hot water in spite of their malice. The strength of the King's constitution also prevented the effects of slow poison, frequently administered to him by his gaolers, from producing the effect desired; when those savage monsters finding such attempts ineffectual, sent to the queen and her paramour for fresh instructions, upon which, they received an equivocal order from Orleton, Bishop of Hereford, one of Queen Eleanor's creatures, wherein he advised them at the same time, to murder Edward, and exhorted them to refrain from such a crime: the words penned on that occasion being capable of both those meanings according to the difference of punctuation.

Edvardum occidere nolite timere, bonum est.

Edvardum occidere nolite, timere bonum est.



APRIL THE FOURTEENTH.

Coronation of Ethelred II. 979.—Death of Harold I. 1039.—Battle of Barnet, 1471.—Mary, Queen of Scots, espoused the Dauphin of France, afterwards Francis II. 1558.

Ethelred, surnamed the Unready, son of Edgar and Elfreda, was crowned; who proved a weak and unfortunate prince, and was so harassed by the Danes, that he paid them forty thousand pounds annually, called the famous tax of Danegelt, in order to repress their incursions.

Harold the First, surnamed Harefoot, in consequence of his speed, was a base son of King Canute the Dane. He proved very tyrannical, and particularly cruel to Queen Emma, whose son Alfred, by her former husband Ethelred, he caused to be traitorously assassinated. Harold

only reigned five years, when he died and was interred at Westminster.

The sanguinary battle of Barnet began early in the morning and continued until noon; and never did two armies fight with more determined obstinacy and bravery, as not only honour but life depended on the issue of the contest. The example of the Earl of Warwick inspired his troops with more than common resolution, and the victory for a time seemed to declare in his favour. An accident, however, at length inclined the balance against him; as on account of the mistiness of the morning, part of his army happening to mistake a body of its own forces for that of the enemy, fell furiously upon it, which error turned the fortune of the day. The Earl, however, effected all that experience, valour, or conduct, could accomplish, to retrieve the mistake, but it was too late; no art proved sufficient to repair that fault: when finding all hope at an end, he resolved to make the victory a dear earned conquest. Warwick, contrary to his wonted practice, had on that day engaged his adversaries on foot, and conducting a chosen band of tried troops into the thickest of the slaughter, he there fell amidst his enemies covered by wounds. His brother shared a similar fate, and ten thousand of his adherents also fell, as Edward had issued orders that no quarter should be given. Thus terminated the fatal conflict of Barnet, which proved a conclusive blow to the fortunes of Henry the Sixth, by finally insuring the crown to Edward Plantagenet, fourth monarch of that name.

The marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to the Dauphin of France, was solemnized with great pomp; and the French, who had previously affected to draw a veil over their designs upon Scotland, then began to unfold their intentions without disguise. In the treaty of marriage, the deputies had agreed that the Dauphin should assume the title of King of Scotland, which they considered only as an honorary dignity; whereas, the French laboured to annex to the same, some solid privileges and power. They

therefore insisted that the Dauphin's claim should be publicly recognised ; that the Crown Matrimonial should be conferred upon him ; and that all the rights appertaining to the husband of a queen should be vested in his person. By the Scotch laws, one marrying an heiress kept her estate during his own life, if he survived her and the children born of that marriage, which was called the Courtesy of Scotland ; a rule the French sought to apply to the succession of the kingdom in this instance ; implied in their demand of the Crown Matrimonial ; a phrase peculiar to Scottish historians.

**APRIL THE FIFTEENTH.***Mutiny at the Nore, 1797.*

This day was distinguished by a mutiny among the seamen, of which the following are the particulars. For some days previous to this date, anonymous letters had been sent to the superior officers of the fleet off Spithead, and to the Board of Admiralty, stating the hardships which the seamen suffered from the insufficiency of their pay and other grievances. As the discontent had universally pervaded the fleet, the concurrence of the seamen in the petitions to their superior officers was likewise universal.

The language was the most respectful possible, their conduct in every sense, except their temporary disobedience to their officers, was strict and exemplary ; and it was hinted that an answer was expected before they put to sea again, unless the enemy's fleet should be known to have sailed, or that a convoy was wanted.

The greatest loyalty to the King was professed, with undeviating attachment to their country. The first symptoms of disobedience, it is said, were manifested when Lord Bridport made signals to weigh on the 16th, at which time a signal was hoisted from the Queen Charlotte for the crews of each ship to give three cheers. From that moment the authority of the officers was at an end, and the seamen became in time masters of the fleet. Two delegates were next sent from each ship of the squadron, who

regularly met every day on board the *Queen Charlotte*. Admiral Pole arrived at the Admiralty on the night of the 16th, and communicated these proceedings. A council was therefore held next morning, the result of which was, that Earl Spencer and Lord Arden immediately set off for Portsmouth, in order to investigate this alarming business.

Several petitions relative to the increase of pay, and provisions, were drawn up on the 18th, by the delegates of the fleet, and presented to the House of Commons and to the Lords of the Admiralty.

The prayers of these petitions being severally attended to, the seamen still refused to weigh anchor until his Majesty's pardon was granted; in consequence of which the King issued a proclamation on the 22d of April to that effect. And thus for a period terminated that most alarming affair.

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**APRIL THE SIXTEENTH.**

*Battle of Culloden, 1746.*

The battle began about one o'clock in the afternoon; the cannon of the King's army doing dreadful execution among the rebels, while those of the latter were unserviceable.

One of the great errors in all the Pretender's warlike measures, was his subjecting wild and undisciplined troops to the forms of studied warfare, and thus repressing their native ardour, from which alone he could have hoped for success.

After the rebels had been retained in their ranks, and withstood the English fire for some time, they at length became impatient for closer engagement; when about five hundred made an irruption upon the left wing of the Royalists, with their accustomed ferocity. The first line being disordered by that onset, two battalions advanced to support it, and galled the enemy by a well directed and close discharge, while at the same time the dragoons under Hawley, and the Argyleshire militia pulling down a park wall, that

guarded the flank of the enemy, and which they had but feebly defended, fell in among them, sword in hand, and committed terrible slaughter.

In less than thirty minutes the Pretender's forces were totally routed, and the field covered with their slain, to the number of above three thousand men. The French troops on the left did not fire a shot, but stood in a line during the engagement, and afterwards surrendered themselves prisoners of war. An entire body of the clans marched off the field, in excellent order, while the rest were routed with great slaughter, and their leaders obliged with reluctance to retire.



#### APRIL THE SEVENTEENTH.

*Scotland invaded by the Earl of Sussex, 1570.*

As the Scotch who advocated the cause of the Queen of Scotland towards the close of 1569, made many incursions and ravaged the English borders, Elizabeth complained of that infraction of the peace, when violent libels against the English Queen were disseminated in Edinburgh. At the same period Elizabeth was also excommunicated by the See of Rome; on which occasion one Felton affixed the Pope's Bull to the gate of the Bishop of London's palace, for which he was hanged. Queen Elizabeth therefore finding it necessary to intimidate the friends of Mary, dispatched the Earl of Essex who on this day (17 April) entered Scotland with an army, and punished the disaffected, while the Lord Scrope also destroyed more than three hundred towns, villages, and hamlets.



#### APRIL THE EIGHTEENTH.

*Marriage of Henry the 6th, 1445.—Victory of Admiral Colpoys, 1795.*

Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, uncle of Henry the sixth, had proposed in marriage for the King his nephew, a daughter of the Count of Armagnac, but he did not possess sufficient influence to prevail. Cardinal Beaufort

and his friends on the other hand had fixed their regards on Margaret of Anjou, daughter of Regnier, titular King of Sicily, Naples, and Jerusalem; but without either real power or territorial possessions. The Princess in question was regarded as the most accomplished of her age, both in mind and person; and, it was conceived, would prove capable, by her own talents, to supply the mortal defects of her husband, who already appeared weak, timid, and superstitious. The treaty of marriage was, in consequence, expedited by the Earl of Suffolk, and solemnized in presence of the King and Queen of France, the Dukes of Orleans and Brittany, twelve knights, twenty bishops, and an innumerable company of spectators.

Rear Admiral Colpoys after a gallant action captured La Gloire and La Gentille, two fine French frigates of forty-four guns each.

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APRIL THE NINETEENTH.

Martyrdom of St. Alphage, 1012.—Hostilities commenced with America, 1775.

During the confinement of Alphage, Archbishop of Canterbury, the Danes proposed to him to redeem his liberty with the sum of £3000, and persnaded the King to purchase their departure out of the realm by a further sum of £10,000. Alphage's circumstances however would not allow him to satisfy that exorbitant demand, when they bound and put him to severe bodily suffering to extort a discovery, as to where the treasures of the church were concealed, at the same time giving him assurances of life and liberty, in case of compliance. The prelate, however, piously persisted in refusing to give the pagans any account, when they remanded him to prison, confined him six days longer, after which conducting him in chains to Greenwich, they there brought him to trial. Alphage still remained inflexible with respect to the Church treasures; but exhorted the Danes to forsake their idolatry, and embrace Christianity, which so greatly incensed them, that they dragged him out of the camp, and beat him un-

mercifully. One of the soldiers, who had been converted by the Archbishop, knowing that his pains would be lingering, as his death was determined upon, actuated from a kind of barbarous compassion, cut off his head, and thus put the finishing stroke to his martyrdom. This transaction happened on the very spot where the church of Greenwich now stands, which was in consequence dedicated to that martyr. After the death of Alphage, his body was thrown into the Thames, but being found the following day, was buried in the cathedral of St. Pauls, by the Bishops of London and Lincoln, from whence it was, in the year 1023, removed to Canterbury, by Ethelmoth, Archbishop of that province.

The fatal commencement of hostilities between the royalists and the Americans took place on this day at Lexington.

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**APRIL THE TWENTIETH.**

*The Scotch Army joined that of the Parliament, 1644.*

The Scotch having declared in favour of the refractory Parliament, marched into England, and on this day joined the English rebels under the command of Lord Fairfax and his son, when they proceeded to lay siege to York, which held out for Charles the First, whither the earl of Newcastle had retreated with his forces.

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APRIL THE TWENTY-FIRST.

Arundel Castle captured by Waller, 1644.—Massey defeated by Prince Rupert, 1645.

Charles the First dispatched Lord Hopton to the south, who made himself master of Arundel Castle, which was, however, soon after retaken by Sir William Waller, at the same time breaking up that nobleman's quarters. During the affair in question, the learned Chillingworth was made prisoner, who died a few days after.

Prince Rupert having encountered Colonel Massey, the Parliamentarian, at Ledbury, an action took place in which the latter was defeated with considerable loss.

APRIL THE TWENTY-SECOND.

Death of Henry the Seventh. 1509.—Richard Cromwell deposed, 1659.

King Henry the Seventh having witnessed in a great measure the civilization of England through his endeavours; finding his people pay their imposts without constraint; the nobles confessing a just subordination; the laws alone inflicting punishment, the towns beginning to exist independent of the powerful; commerce every day increasing; the spirit of faction extinguished, and foreigners either fearing England, or courting her alliance, began to feel the approaches of dissolution. The monarch therefore thought fit to prepare for an hereafter, and reconcile himself to the will of the Supreme, which he endeavoured to compass by distributing alms, founding religious establishments, and granting a general pardon to all his subjects to make an atonement for the errors of his reign. It was in that disposition he died, with the gout in his stomach, having lived fifty-two years, of which he had reigned twenty-three. Since the days of Alfred, England had not witnessed such another king. He rendered his people powerful and happy, and wrought a greater change in the manners of his subjects, than it was possible to suppose could have been effected in so short a time. If Henry had any fault deserving reproach, it was, that having begun his reign with economy, his desires, with his years, seemed to change their object, from the use of gold to the love of hoarding it. For this, however, he deserves in some measure to be pardoned, having merely saved for the public, the royal coffers being then the only treasury of the state; so that in proportion to the king's finances, his people might be said to be either wealthy or indigent.

It was found necessary, on the advancement of Richard Cromwell to the Protectorate, to convene a Parliament, in order to furnish supplies for carrying on the ordinary expenditure of government. The House of Commons was well constituted, but that of the peers consisted only of those persons of no real title, who had been advanced to their dignified stations by the late Protector. It was not,

however, on Parliament that the army founded its reliance; many of the malcontents among the military formed a meeting at General Fleetwood's, which, as he resided in Wallingford house, was called the Cabal of Wallingford. The result of the deliberations of that assembly was a remonstrance, that the command of the army should be entrusted to some person, in whom they might all place reliance, and it was moreover plainly stated, that the young Protector was not that person.

Such a daring and dangerous proposal did not fail to alarm Richard, who applied to his council, and then referred himself to his Parliament, when both agreed that it was an audacious attempt, and a vote was passed that there should be no meeting, or general council of officers, without being sanctioned by the Protector. An immediate rupture proved the consequence, the palace of the Protector was on the following day surrounded by officers, when one Desborow, a man of a brutish nature, penetrating into his apartment with some armed adherents, proceeded to threaten Richard in case of refusal. The Protector, unlike his enterprising and undaunted father, failed in resolution to defend that which had been conferred upon him, he therefore, in a quiescent manner dissolved the Parliament, and soon after signed his own abdication in due form.



APRIL THE TWENTY-THIRD.

Battle of Contarf, 1014.—Order of the Garter instituted, 1349.—Charles the First refused admission into Hull, 1642.—Escape of Charles the Second, 1643.—Coronation of Queen Anne, 1702.—Warren Hastings acquitted, 1795.

About the beginning of the year 1014, Brian Boro treated with most of the Irish petty kings to unite all their forces with him, and endeavour to expel the Danes, as the public enemies of the kingdom; against whom Sitricus, having made all the preparations and alliances possible, a most sanguinary battle was fought between them, on the 23rd of April, at a place called Contarf, near

Dublin. On that occasion authors vary about the success of the victory; most, however, agreeing, that Brian was there mortally wounded, and his son, Murschard, and grandson Ardeval, with many persons of quality, besides seven thousand, others say eleven thousand men lost their lives. The Danes also suffered severely, who, with the relics of their forces retired to Dublin, soon after which, Metachlin, King of Meath, who, out of enmity to Brian had coalesced with Sitricus, was by the populace proclaimed King of Ireland.

Edward the Third, and his gallant son the Black Prince, having returned to England from their glorious martial achievements, acquired on the French soil, the monarch constituted the famous fraternity of the Knights of the Garter.

This order was instituted, according to every historian, by Edward the Third, and in the estimation of the people of all countries of Europe, is universally considered as preferable to any other existing in the world. The badge is an oval medallion of gold, upon which is represented St. George on horseback, in gold armour, holding a lance in the rest, which is directed against a dragon. On the outside is a blue enamelled gold circle, in the form of a garter, with a gold buckle. and upon the same appears the motto—*Honi soit qui mal y pense*. "Evil be to him that evil thinks."

Charles the First having marched to Hull, intending to secure his magazines at that town, was denied admittance by Sir John Hotham, who had been appointed governor of the place in the name of the Parliament, upon which the King declared him a traitor. The Parliament, on the other hand, voted that Sir John Hotham had only acted in obedience to its commands, adding, that the declaring one of its members a traitor, was a most flagrant breach of privilege. Charles, notwithstanding, demanded justice on the governor of Hull, which town he endeavoured to surprise, but was discovered by an officer, who treated with the King.

When Charles arrived at Mr. Norton's, the first person he saw was one of his own chaplains, sitting at the door amusing himself with seeing people play at bowls. The King, after having taken proper care of his horse in the stable, was shewn to an apartment which Mrs. Lane had provided for him, as it was said he had an ague; the butler, however, being sent to him with some refreshment, no sooner beheld his face, which was very pale with anxiety and fatigue, than he recollected his King and master, and falling on his knees, while the tears streamed down his cheeks, cried out, "I am rejoiced to see your Majesty." The King was alarmed, but made the butler promise that he would keep the secret from every mortal, even from his master, and the honest servant punctually obeyed him.

No ship being found that would for a month set sail from Bristol, either for France or Spain, the King was obliged to go elsewhere for a passage, and repaired to the house of Colonel Wyndham, in Dorsetshire, where he was cordially received; that gentleman's family having ever been loyal. His mother, a venerable matron, seemed to think the end of her life nobly rewarded in having it in her power to give protection to her King. She expressed no dissatisfaction at having lost three of her sons and one grandchild in the defence of his cause, since she was honored in being instrumental to his own preservation.

Pursuing from thence his journey to the sea side, Charles once more had a providential escape from a little inn, where he put up for the night. The day had been appointed by Parliament for a solemn fast, and a fanatical weaver, who had been a soldier in the Parliament army, was preaching against the King in a little chapel fronting the house. Charles, to avoid suspicion, was himself among the audience. It happened that a smith of the same principles with the weaver had been examining the horses belonging to the passengers, and came to assure the preacher, that he knew by the fashion of the shoes that one of the stranger's horses came from the north. The preacher immediately affirmed, that this horse could belong to no other than Charles Stuart, and instantly went with

a constable to search the inn. But Charles had taken timely precautions, and had left the house before the constable's arrival.

At Shoreham, in Sussex, a vessel was at last found, in which he embarked. He was known to so many, that if he had not set out at that critical moment, it had been impossible for him to have escaped. After one and forty days concealment, he arrived safely at Feschamp in Normandy. No less than forty men and women had at different times been privy to the King's escape.

This being St. George's Day, her majesty Anne, queen of Great Britain, was crowned with great solemnity at Westminster. This potentate was married to Prince George of Denmark, and ascended the throne in the thirty-eighth year of her age, to the general satisfaction of all parties. She was the second daughter of King James, by his first wife, the daughter of Lord Chancellor Hyde, afterwards Earl of Clarendon.

As she had been taught, in the preceding part of her life, to suffer many mortifications from the reigning King, she had thus learned to conceal her resentments; and the natural tranquillity of her temper still more contributed to make her overlook and pardon every opposition.

Anne either was insensible of any disrespect shown her, or had wisdom to assume insensibility.

Warren Hastings, who had been appointed Governor-General of India, was recalled from thence, and on the 21st May, 1787, Mr. Burke, at the bar of the House of Lords, in the name of the Commons of Great Britain, impeached him of high crimes and misdemeanors. During that celebrated trial, the talents of all the great orators in Parliament were signally displayed, and in particular the speech of Mr. Richard Brinsley Sheridan, esteemed a masterpiece of elocution. After the trial of Mr. Hastings had continued for a series of years, it was this day terminated by his complete acquittal.

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**APRIL THE TWENTY-FOURTH.**

*Henry the Sixth crowned at Paris, 1430.—Charles defeated by Cromwell at Islipbridge, 1645.*

The Duke of Bedford, in order to revive the declining state of affairs, as regarded the dominion of England over France, resolved to have his nephew Henry the Sixth crowned at Paris, conceiving that the citizens would be allured to obedience by the splendour of the ceremony. Henry was accordingly inaugurated, when all the vassals that still continued under the influence of England swore fealty and homage to the young monarch as their liege lord. It was however too late for the glitter and ceremonies of a coronation to effect a change in the declining state of the affairs of the English in that country: the generality of the kingdom had declared against them, and the remainder only wanted a convenient opportunity to imitate their example.

Oliver Cromwell having come up with a brigade of the king's horse at Islipbridge near Oxford, a very brisk encounter took place, which terminated in favour of the former, who on that occasion captured the royal standard, and made two hundred prisoners. Cromwell then summoned Bletchington house, garrisoned by the cavaliers under the command of Colonel Windebank, who basely surrendered without defending himself; in consequence of which, Prince Rupert ordered the Colonel to be tried by a court at Oxford, who was condemned to death and shot on the third of May following, the king being then absent from that city.

**APRIL THE TWENTY-FIFTH.**

*Boulogne surrendered to France, 1550.*

Peace was concluded with France, and Boulogne surrendered up to the French, on condition that they should pay to the King of England (Edward VI), in consideration thereof, and the tribute then in arrears by France,



400 000 crowns ; it being also stipulated that the treaty in question should not prejudice the claim of England either to France or Scotland.

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APRIL THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

Reading surrendered to the Earl of Essex, 1643.

After a siege of ten days the town of Reading surrendered to the Earl of Essex, who commanded the Parliament forces, when the garrison was found to consist of five thousand men, who were permitted to march out with their arms, baggage, &c. ; but all deserters were given up. Colonel Fielding, who on that occasion had hung out a flag of truce, was condemned to lose his head, but received the royal pardon.

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**APRIL THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.**

*Death of Ethelred the First, 872.—First Stone of the New Hall of Christ's Hospital laid, 1825.*

Ethelred the First, third son of Ethelwolf, succeeded to the English crown, during whose reign the Danes committed dreadful ravages throughout the kingdom. Those barbarians in particular, took delight in sacking monasteries for the valuable shrines they contained, and maltreating the defenceless nuns. To prevent a similar mode of conduct at Coldingham, in the county of March in Scotland, the abbess and sisterhood cut off their noses and upper lips, that in such an hideous plight they might escape the disgusting outrages with which they were threatened, when the Danes in fury fired the convent, and thus burnt its unfortunate inmates. They also fired the city of York, and murdered Edmund, titular King of the East Angles ; the place of whose interment is still known by the name of Saint Edmund's Bury. Ethelred overthrew the Danes at Assendon, which was the most serious loss those marauders ever sustained in England ; added to which, he fought with them nine pitched battles in one year, but received a wound between Abingdon and Wallingford, which caused his death, April 27. He was buried at

Winborne in Dorsetshire, and left two sons and one daughter.

The first stone of the New Hall of Christ's Hospital was laid, on which occasion the following card of invitation was forwarded to such dignitaries, and persons who were invited to assist at the ceremony:—

“ His Majesty having graciously condescended to comply with the wishes of the Governors of Christ's Hospital, to lay the first stone of their intended New Hall, and having been pleased to nominate His Royal Highness the Duke of York, to officiate for His Majesty on the occasion, the President, Treasurer, and Committee of Almoners, request the honour of ——— company to attend the ceremony, on Wednesday, April 27, at one o'clock precisely, the day fixed by His Royal Highness.”  
*Christ's Hospital, April 11, 1825.*

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APRIL THE TWENTY-NINETH.


Sir Francis Drake arrived at Virginia, and Tobacco first introduced, 1585.

Sir Francis Drake with twenty-one sail of men of war, and numerous land forces, commanded by the Earl of Carlisle, surprised and plundered St. Domingo, in Hispaniola, took Carthage, and arrived at Virginia in Florida, where he received on board Captain Lane, and a colony in distress; having been sent thither by Sir Walter Raleigh, and with them the tobacco plant, which was then first brought into England.

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**APRIL THE TWENTY-NINTH.**

*Conspiracy and Execution of Earl Waltheof, 1074.—  
 Jeanne d'Arc relieved Orleans, 1428.*

The reign of William the Conqueror was by no means peaceable, as there was still among the nobility spirits that felt indignant at being subjected to the Norman yoke. Among other insurrections that disturbed this monarch's



reign, was that headed by Ralph de Waher, Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk, Waltheof, Earl of Northumberland, and others, which was suppressed on this day. The latter nobleman was beheaded, being the only peer put to death during that reign, and the first who suffered by decapitation; various tortures and cruelties being also practised against minor persons in that commotion, some having their hands and feet cut off, while others were deprived of their eye-sight.

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In the village of Domremi, near Vancouleurs, on the borders of Lorraine, there lived a country girl about twenty-seven years of age, called Joan of Arc. This female had been a servant at a small inn; and in that humble station, submitted to those hardy employments which accustom the body for the fatigues of war. She was of an irreproachable life; and testified none of those enterprising qualities which displayed themselves soon after. Joan contentedly fulfilled the duties of her situation, and was remarkable only for her modesty and love of religion. But the miseries of her country seemed to have been one of the greatest objects of her compassionate regard.

Her king, Charles the Seventh, expelled his throne, her country laid in blood, and strangers executing unnumbered rapines before her eyes, were sufficient motives for exciting her resentment, and animating her heart with a desire of avenging them. Her mind inflamed by such objects, and brooding over them with melancholy steadfastness, began to feel several impulses which she willingly mistook for the sacred inspirations of heaven. Convinced of the reality of her own admonitions, she had recourse to one Baudricourt, governor of Vancouleurs, and informed him of her being destined by heaven to free her native country from its fierce invaders. Baudricourt, at first, treated Joan with neglect; but her importunities ultimately prevailed, when willing to make trial of her pretensions, he gave her two attendants who conducted her to the French court, which at that time resided at Chirion.

The French King and his advisers, were probably sensible of the weakness of Joan's pretensions; but they were willing to make use of every artifice to support their



declining fortunes. It was therefore given out, that the maid was actually inspired, and able to discover the King among the number of his courtiers, although he had laid aside all the distinctions of his authority; that she had told him certain secrets known only to himself; and had demanded, and minutely described, a sword in the church of St. Catherine de Fierbois, which she had never seen. In this manner the minds of the vulgar being prepared for Joan's appearance, she was armed cap-a-pee, mounted on a charger, and shewn in that martial array to the people. The maid was then conducted before the doctors of the university, who tinctured with the credulity of the times, or willing to second the imposture, declared that she was a virgin and had received her commission from above.

When the preparations for Joan's mission were completely blazoned abroad, the next aim was to despatch her against the enemy. The English were at that time besieging the city of Orleans, the last resource of Charles, and every thing promised them a speedy surrender. Joan however, undertook to raise the siege; and to render herself still more remarkable, girded on the miraculous sword of which she had before received such extraordinary notices. Thus equipped, the maid ordered all the soldiers to confess themselves before they set out; she displayed in her hand a consecrated banner, and assured the troops of certain success; with such confidence upon her side, she soon raised the spirits of the French army, while the English, who pretended to despise her efforts, felt themselves secretly influenced with the terrors of her mission. A supply of provisions was to be conveyed into the town, and Joan, at the head of some French troops, covering the embarkation, entered Orleans at the head of the convoy which she had safely protected.

While she thus led her troops, a dead silence and astonishment reigned among the English; who regarded with religious awe that temerity they thought nothing but supernatural assistance could inspire. But they were soon roused from their state of amazement by a sally from the town, in which Joan led on the besieged, bearing the sacred standard in her hand, encouraging them with her

words and actions, bringing them up to the trenches, and overpowering the besiegers in their own redoubts. In the attacks at one of the forts she was wounded in the neck with an arrow; but instantly drawing forth the weapon, and having the wound quickly dressed, she hastened back to head the troops, and plant her victorious banner on the redoubts of the enemy. These successes continuing, the English found it impossible to resist troops animated by such superior energy; and those who conducted the attack, thinking it might prove extremely dangerous to remain any longer in the presence of such a courageous and victorious enemy, raised the siege, and retreated with all imaginable precaution.



## APRIL THE THIRTIETH.

*Battle of Fontenoy, 1745.*

The French, prior to the affair of Fontenoy, carried all before them; they had laid siege to Fribourg, and in the beginning of the succeeding campaign invested the strong city of Tournay.

The allies, commanded by the Duke of Cumberland, although inferior in number, were resolved, if possible, to save that city by hazarding a decisive battle. They accordingly marched against the enemy and took post in sight of the French, who were encamped on an eminence, the village of St. Antoine being on their right, a wood to the left, and the town of Fontenoy in front of them. That advantageous situation did not repress the ardour of the English, who began the attack at two o'clock in the morning; and, pressing forward, completely bore down all opposition. They were for nearly an hour victorious, and confident of success, while the famous Marshal Saxe, who commanded the enemy, was at the time suffering from the same disorder of which he subsequently died. That general was, however, conveyed about to all the parts of his army in a litter, when he assured his attendants that, notwithstanding unfavourable appearances, the day was his own. A column of the English, without

being subject to any command, but by mere mechanical courage, had advanced upon the enemy's lines; which opening, formed an avenue on each side to receive it. At the juncture in question, the French artillery on three sides began to play upon that forlorn body; which, although continuing its attacks for a length of time unshaken, was ultimately obliged to retreat about three in the afternoon. The affair of Fontenoy proved one of the most sanguinary battles that had been fought in the eighteenth century; the Allies leaving on the field of battle about twelve thousand men, while the French bought their temporary advantage with the loss of nearly an equal number of slain.



#### MAY THE FIRST.

##### *Massacre of the British Nobles at Stonehenge, 476.*

Hengist, the Saxon general, entertained Vortigern and three hundred of his principal noblemen, whom he murdered on this day, in memory of which treacherous act, Ambrosius is supposed by some historians to have erected Stonehenge, in Wiltshire; when the latter prince assumed the purple in Britain, after the manner of the Romans.

The treachery of the Saxon chief, in having murdered the British nobles, rendered him hated, and his country in consequence became depopulated, by the inhabitants retiring to other territories, which induced him to send to Germany for Ella, who landed at Whittering, in Sussex, though not without much opposition. With that prince, came his sons, the youngest of whom was Cissa, who continually waged warfare with the Britons, the particulars of which, however, are unknown, except that they settled on the sea coast, being called the South Saxons, and their country Sussex; while those who settled on the Eastern coast, were called East Saxons, and their country named Essex. The country between Sussex and Essex was termed Middlesex; while Kent still continued to retain its ancient denomination.



**MAY THE SECOND.**

*The Jews throughout England seized. 1287.—The Duke of Suffolk executed, 1450.—Mary, Queen of Scots escaped from Lochleven Castle, 1568.—Princess Charlotte espoused Prince Leopold, 1816.*

One of the arbitrary acts of King Edward the First was, an ordinance for the seizure of all Jews within the realm of England, from whom that monarch extorted sums of money, which, when weighed, produced twelve thousand pounds weight in silver; an enormous sum at the period in question.

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William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, the favourite of Margaret, Queen of Henry the Sixth, having excited popular animosity, the Commons presented to the House of Peers an indictment against that nobleman, who was, in consequence, sent to the Tower. The duke being speedily after released, a sedition broke out in Kent, headed by one Thaney, nick-named Bluebeard; but himself and the chiefs being seized and executed, the commotion was stifled in its birth. On the 20th April, Suffolk, at the meeting of Parliament at Leicester, being present in the suite of the King, the Commons, feeling indignant, petitioned for his removal, and then proceeded to his impeachment, when he was ordered into banishment for five years. That sentence being construed into a mere evasion of justice, a captain was purposely employed by the duke's enemies to intercept him in his passage for France, who, on this day (May the 2d), seized his person near Dover, and having caused his head to be struck off on the side of the long boat, committed his body to the waves.

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At length, Mary employed all her arts to gain over to her interests George Douglas, her keeper's brother, a youth of eighteen.

As the Queen's manners were naturally affable and insinuating, she treated him with marked distinction, and allowed him to entertain the most ambitious hopes, by letting fall some ambiguous expressions,

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At length, Mary employed all her arts to gain over to her interests George Douglas, her keeper's brother, a youth of eighteen.

As the Queen's manners were naturally affable and insinuating, she treated him with marked distinction, and allowed him to entertain the most ambitious hopes, by letting fall some ambiguous expressions,



inferring that she would choose him for her husband. At his age, and under such circumstances, it was impossible to resist the temptation. Douglas therefore yielded, and drew others into the plot; when, on Sunday, being the 2nd of May, while his brother sat at supper, and the rest of the family had retired to their devotions, one of his accomplices found means to steal the keys from his brother's chamber, and opening the gates to the Queen and one of her maids locked them behind her, and then threw the keys into the lake.

Mary ran with precipitation to the boat which was prepared for her, and on reaching the shore, was received with the utmost joy by Douglas, Lord Seaton, and Sir James Hamilton, who with a few attendants waited her coming. Mary instantly mounted on horseback, and rode full speed towards Niddric, Lord Seaton's seat in West Lothian, where she arrived the same night without being pursued or interrupted. After halting three hours, the Queen set out for Hamilton, and travelling at the same expeditious rate, reached that place the ensuing morning.

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The lamented Princess Charlotte of Wales, daughter of his august Majesty, George the Fourth, was married to Prince Leopold of Saxe Coburg.

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**MAY THE THIRD.**

*St. Bartholomew's Hospital founded, 1546.*

The Priory, Hospital, and Fair of Saint Bartholomew the Great, owed their magnificent foundations on this day to Rahere, minstrel and jester to Henry the First, a gentleman of Norman extraction, who is, on that account, rendered conspicuous in English history.

This hospital stands on the south-side of West Smithfield, in the Ward of Farringdon Without, which King Henry the First, in his charter, endowed with very great privileges and immunities; but afterwards, there happening some difference between the master and brethren,

and the prior and convent of the priory, about a composition formerly made between them, by Eustace, Bishop of London; there was another composition on the 11th of April, 1373, by Simon Sudbury, then Bishop of London, whereby all matters in dispute were composed. It was therefore ordered, that on choosing a master, the brethren of the hospital should first petition the prior to have his license to elect, and having thereupon elected their master, that they should present him to the said prior, who in case he found him a fit person, should then present him to the Bishop of London for his confirmation, and subsequently his election, and that then the person so elected and confirmed, should swear obedience and fidelity to the prior and convent.

This hospital was valued at the suppression, anno 1540, at £305. 6s. 7d., and was refounded by King Henry VIII. in 1546; and the Bishop of Rochester, on Jan. 13 of the same year, preaching at St. Paul's Cross, declared the gift of the said king (who died about a fortnight after), to the citizens for relieving the poor, which contained the church of Grey-Friars, the church of St. Bartholomew, with the Hospital, and divers messuages, with their appurtenances in various places; and thereupon, a voluntary contribution was made by the citizens, towards the preparation and furnishing this hospital, upon the motion of the Mayor, &c. to that purpose; and on July 26, 1562, the repairing of the Grey-friars' house for the poor fatherless children, was taken in hand. The latter end of the same month began the repairing the hospital for poor diseased persons, which was new endowed and furnished at the charges of the citizens.

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MAY THE FOURTH.

Battle of Tewkesbury, 1471.—Cabot discovered the main land of America, 1497.—Disinterment and preservation of Cromwell's skull, 1661.—Charles Town captured, 1780.—Battle of Seringapatam, 1799.

Margaret had not long been in her melancholy abode

at the Abbey of Beaulieu in Hampshire, ere she found some few friends still willing to assist her fallen fortunes. Tudor, Earl of Pembroke, Courtney, Earl of Devonshire, the Lords of Wenlock and St. John, with other men of rank, exhorted her still to court success, and offered to assist her to the last. A dawn of hope was sufficient to revive the courage of that magnanimous woman; and the recollection of her misfortunes gave way to the flattering prospect of another trial. The Queen had then fought battles in almost every province of England; and Tewkesbury Park was the scene destined to terminate her belligerent attempts. The Duke of Somerset headed her army, a man who had shared her dangers, and uniformly been steady in her cause. He was valiant, generous, and polite, but rash, and headstrong. When Edward the Fourth first attacked him in his intrenchments, he repulsed the King with so much vigour, that the latter retired with precipitation; upon which, the Duke, supposing him routed, pursued, and ordered Lord Wenlock to support his charge.

Unfortunately, however, that Lord disobeyed his orders, and Somerset's forces were soon overpowered by numbers. In that exigence, the Duke finding all was lost, became ungovernable in his fury; when, beholding Wenlock inactive, and in the very place where he had first drawn up his men, he, with his weighty battle-axe raised in both hands, precipitated himself upon the coward, and with one blow, dashed his brains out.

Queen Margaret and the prince, her son, were taken prisoners, and after the battle, conducted into the presence of Edward. The young prince appeared before the conqueror with undaunted majesty; when, being asked in an insulting manner how he had dared to invade England without leave, the youth, more mindful of his high birth than ruined fortunes, replied, "I have entered the dominions of my father to revenge his injuries, and redress my own."

The barbarous Edward, enraged at such intrepidity, struck the son of Henry the Sixth on his mouth with his gauntlet, which seemed intended as a signal for farther

brutality, when the Dukes of Gloucester, Clarence, and others, like savage beasts rushing on the unarmed prince, stabbed him to the heart with their daggers.

Henry the Seventh invited Columbus to England, but his brother on his return being captured by pirates, was detained in his voyage ; when Columbus, in the interim succeeding with Isabella of Spain, happily effected his grand enterprise. The English monarch, however, was not discouraged by the disappointment, but fitted out Sebastian Cabot, a Venetian, dwelling at Bristol, whom he despatched westward, in 1498, for the discovery of new countries.

This adventurer happily found the main land of America to the north, on the 4th of May, then sailed southward along the coast, and discovered Newfoundland and other countries ; but returned without making any settlement. The King soon after expended fourteen thousand pounds in building one vessel, called the *Great Harry*, which was, properly speaking, the first regular ship in the English navy ; as prior to that period, when the state required a fleet, there was no other expedient but the hiring ships from merchants.

When the bodies of Cromwell, Ireton, and Bradshaw were at Tyburn, they were pulled out of their coffins, and hanged at the several angles of that triple tree, where they remained till sun set ; after which, they were taken down, their heads cut off, and their trunks thrown into a deep hole under the gallows. The heads of those three regicides, were then set upon poles on the top of Westminster Hall, by the common hangman ; Bradshaw's being placed in the middle over that part where the high court of justice sat, and Cromwell's and his son-in-law Ireton's on both sides of Bradshaw's.

It is most likely that the decapitation was performed in haste, amidst tumult and confusion, which may account for the nose having been broken in, and as the head was separated from the body by two distinct, irregular blows (the first somewhat high in the neck), the marks indi-

cate the natural and certain appearances of their having been applied to a subject sometime before dead, and preserved from dissolution by artificial means.

The head being well preserved, to the time of its falling from the top of Westminster Hall, is accounted for as the whole body was carefully and elaborately embalmed; but especially by Mr. Sainthill's MS. quoted in Noble's Memoirs, Vol. I. p. 290; in which the author mentions his being an eye-witness of the state of the bodies; and that Cromwell's "was in green cere-cloth, very fresh embalmed."

The corpses were taken out of their graves by John Lewis, a mason, as appears by his receipt as follows:—

"May the 4th day, 1661, rec. then in full of the worshipfull Sargeant Norfolke, fiveteen shillings for taking up the corpes of Cromell, and Ireton, and Brasaw, rec. by mee.

"JOHN LEWIS."

The tradition respecting the head of Oliver Cromwell is, that being on a stormy night, in the latter end of the reign of Charles, or James the Second, blown off from the top of Westminster Hall, it was taken up by one of those persons who still cherished the memory of the Protector, and by that person presented to the house of Russell, and in the possession of one branch or another of that family it remained many years, until its last possessor of that name (Mr. Samuel Russell), sold it to James Cox, Esquire, formerly proprietor of the celebrated Museum which bore his name.

Charles Town, in South Carolina, surrendered to the army commanded by Sir Henry Clinton.

Seringapatam, capital of the Mysore country, in the East Indies, was taken by storm by the British forces; on which occasion, the Sultan, Tippoo Saib, was found among the slain, since which period the power of his family has dwindled into nothing.

MAY THE FIFTH.

*Princess Elizabeth committed to the Tower, 1554.—
England's Sovereignty over the seas proclaimed,
1634.—King Charles surrendered himself to the
Scotch, 1646.*

The former Constable of the Tower having been discharged from his office, was replaced by Sir Henry Benfield, accompanied by a hundred ruffian-like soldiers, which measure created infinite alarm in the mind of the Princess Elizabeth, then committed a prisoner to that fortress, who conceived such measures preparatory to her undergoing the same fate as had recently attended the unfortunate victim, Lady Jane Gray. However, when convinced that such a project was not intended, the Princess imagined that this new Constable had been deputed to his office, in order to make away with her privily; his equivocal character being in every respect conformable with the ferocious inclinations of those bigots by whom he had been appointed. An order of council was made for Elizabeth's removal to Woodstock on the 13th, by Benfield and Lord Tame, in order to make room for other prisoners in the Tower. At Richmond, where they halted, soldiers were placed as guards at the princess's chamber door; which indecent stretch of power was, however, overruled by Lord Tame. In her passage through Windsor, Elizabeth beheld some of her dejected servants waiting to see her; upon which occasion, she bade one of her attendants go to them, and utter from her these words: *Tanquam ovis*, "like a sheep to the slaughter." When at Woodstock, soldiers kept guard within and without the walls night and day, during the whole period of the princess's captivity.

Mr. Selden having in his famous work maintained the sovereignty of the English crown over the British seas against Hugo Grotius, writs were this day issued to the ports and maritime counties for fitting out their ships, for the maintenance of that prerogative; when the city of London petitioned against them, as being

exempted by their ancient privileges. The citizens were, however, obliged to submit, and all the other ports followed their example.

Charles the First having left Oxford in privacy, after traversing numerous cross roads and by-ways in company with Dr. Hudson and Mr. Ashburnham, arrived at the Scottish camp before Newark, where he made himself known to Lord Leven, the general. The Scotch, who had previously given some intimations of fidelity and protection, then appeared greatly astonished at the King's arrival among them, and instead of bestowing a thought on his interests, immediately entered into consultation respecting their own. The commissioners then dispatched to the Parliament an account of Charles's arrival; declaring the same to have been without their cognizance, and wholly unexpected; while, at the same time, they traiterously prevailed upon the monarch to issue directions for the surrender of all his garrisons to the Parliament, with which he complied.

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**MAY THE SIXTH.**

*Enquiry respecting the South Sea Bubble, 1721.*

In consequence of the infamous frauds practised upon public credulity by the directors of the South Sea Scheme, a select committee of thirteen commoners was appointed to examine into the transactions of that company. The king also despatched orders, that such of the directors as held any situation under the crown, should be discharged from his service. Robert Knight, the cashier, having been examined before the Lords, it was resolved that he had been guilty of gross prevarication, and that the directors had committed a flagrant breach of trust, and ought to make good the losses sustained. The ledgers of the several offices belonging to the South Sea Company were then seized by the committee, when the cashier absconded, and sailed for Calais, for whose apprehension a reward of £2,000 was offered.

The Commons having also duly considered the conduct of John Aislalie, Esq., a member of that house, he was heard in his defence; but it being clearly proved that he had caused a certain ledger to be secretly burnt, containing accounts to the amount of £842,000, it was unanimously agreed that the said John Aislalie had encouraged and promoted the destructive South Sea Scheme, with a view to his own private interest, and combined with the directors in their pernicious practices, to the detriment of the public at large, and the trade of England. They therefore resolved that he should be expelled the house and committed to the Tower, &c. On this day, George the First gave his royal assent to an act, enabling the South Sea Company to ingraft part of their capital into the fund of the Bank of England, and another part into that of the East India Company, allowing time for payment to be made by the South Sea Company, to the use of the public.

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MAY THE SEVENTH.

The Channel Fleet refused to put to sea, 1797.

The channel fleet having refused to sail, the delegates reassembled, and despatched a deputation to the London, commanded by Admiral Colpoys, at Portsmouth, which the latter refused to admit on board that ship, and enforced his authority, by commanding the marines to fire into the boat which contained such deputation. That conduct was forthwith resented by the crew of the London, which instantly deposed the admiral, struck his flag, and hoisted the ensign of defiance. In that affair, many seamen were wounded, of which hurts some died afterwards.

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**MAY THE EIGHTH.**

*Public Worship ordered to be read in English, 1559.*

*—Bill of Attainder against Lord Strafford, 1641.*

*—Cromwell refused the Kingly Title, 1657.—*

*Charles the Second restored, 1660.*

*Queen Elizabeth passed an act for the public worship,*



of the Protestant Church to be thenceforward read in the English language.

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Pym, a tedious, but sensible speaker in Parliament, opened the accusation against the Earl of Strafford, in the lower house, who was then sent up to defend the same at the bar of the Peers, when most of his colleagues attended him on an errand which was so agreeable to their revolutionary sentiments.

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The motion for conferring the royal dignity on the Protector Cromwell, was made by Alderman Pack, one of the city members, when the majority of the house being his creatures, the bill was voted, and nothing then remained but Cromwell's consent to have his name enrolled among the monarchs of England. Whether it had been the Protector's intention in having the same carried to show magnanimity in refusing, or, that finding some of those in whom he most confided, averse to his accepting the crown, cannot now be ascertained. It is, however certain, that he continued undecided for some days, and the conference held by those members sent to make him the offer, seems to argue that he wished to be compelled to accept what he openly feared to assume. The obscurity of his answers on that occasion shew a mind at variance with itself, and combating only with a desire to be vanquished. "I confess," said he, "for it behoves me to deal with you—I must confess—I would say, I hope I may be understood in this; for, indeed, I must be tender what I would say to such an audience as this; I say, I would be understood, that in this argument, I do not make a parallel between men of a different mind, and a parliament which shall have their desires. I know there is no comparison, nor can it be urged upon me, that my words have the least colour that way, because the parliament seems to me to give liberty to me to say any thing to you. As that is a tender of my humble reasons, and judgment, and opinion to them, and if I think they are such, and will be such to them, and are faithful servants, and will be so to the supreme authority, and the legislative where-

soever it is. If I say I should not tell you, knowing their minds to be so, I should not be faithful if I should not tell you so, to the end that you may report it to parliament." In such manner did that most unaccountable of all characters answer their petition for assuming the kingly name and dignity; the conference, however, concluding in Cromwell's rejection of their offer.

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A solemn proclamation was read, proclaiming the Restoration of King Charles the Second, at which both Houses of Parliament assisted in London and Westminster.

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MAY THE NINTH.

Lambeth Palace attacked by the London Apprentices, 1640.—Thomas Pickering executed, 1679.

A paper was posted up at the Old Exchange, inciting the apprentices of London to rise and demolish the Archbishop's palace at Lambeth, which was attempted on the 11th following; when the Reverend Prelate being prepared for the assailants, they were compelled to retire. One of those miscreants being taken, was tried, condemned, and executed as a traitor, when his quarters were exposed upon London Bridge.

Thomas Pickering lost his life upon the deposition of the infamous Titus Oates and William Bedlow, who swore this individual, and another named Grove, were the persons that undertook to assassinate Charles the Second.

Pickering was reprieved till the 9th of May, either in hopes of his making discoveries, or because the king was unwilling to consent to his death; but on the day aforesaid he was drawn to Tyburn, and there executed. He expressed very great joy that he was so happy as to yield up his life to God, in a case where his conscience assured him his religion was his only guilt: and he took it upon his salvation, that he was innocent in thought,

word, and deed, of all that had been laid to his charge. Being taxed for officiating as a priest, he replied with a smile. "No, I am but a lay-brother." He prayed for his accusers and enemies; and when on the point of being turned off, some persons having asked him to confess his guilt, pulling up his cap, and looking toward them with a smiling countenance. "Is this," said he, "the countenance of a man that dies under so gross a guilt?" and so ended his life, aged 58, regretted by many, who esteemed him a very harmless individual, and of all men living the most unlikely and unfit for the desperate undertaking of which he had been accused. Pickering was of a loyal stock, his father having lost his life in the king's quarrel, during the civil wars.



MAY THE TENTH.

Edward the Black Prince arrived in London with his prisoner John, King of France, 1357.

The Black Prince escorted his royal prisoners through London, attended by an infinite concourse of people of all ranks and stations, upon which occasion as in former instances, his modesty excited universal applause. The French King was clad in his royal robes, and mounted upon a white charger distinguished for its size and beauty, while Prince Edward rode at his side on a mean little palfrey in very plain attire. Two monarchs prisoners in the same court and at the same time were considered as rare achievements, but all that England attained from thence was glory. Whatsoever was acquired in France by war and expensive preparation, was successively lost without the mortification of a defeat. It may be supposed that the treaties entered into with the captive kings were highly advantageous to the victors, but they were no longer observed than while the English were empowered to enforce obedience. It is certainly true that the French King abided by his engagements as far as he was enabled, but by being a captive he lost his authority, and his misfortunes had rendered him contemptible at home. The Dauphin and

the rulers of France rejected those treaties he had been induced to sign, and then prepared in earnest to repel the meditated invasions of the conqueror.

MAY THE ELEVENTH.

Assassination of Mr. Percival, 1811.

Mr. Percival, Prime-Minister of England, was shot by Bellingham in the lobby of the House of Commons. On the fifteenth he was tried and found guilty, and on the eighteenth suffered death at the Old Bailey.

MAY THE TWELFTH.

Richard the First espoused Berengera, 1191.—Lord Strafford beheaded, 1641.—Marlborough defeated the enemy at Ramillies, 1706.

Richard the First had early in life been contracted to the daughter of Raymond, Count of Barcelona, but when arrived at maturer years, was affianced to Adela, daughter to Louis the Seventh, neither of whom he ever espoused, for the latter princess, having been consigned to the care of Richard's father till of fit age to marry, Henry the Second would not consent, loving her himself, on which account it is supposed Richard rebelled against his father. In his voyage to the Holy Land, after he had assumed the reins of government, Cœur de Lion married Berengera, daughter of Sancho the Sixth, King of Navarre, which match was arranged for him by his mother queen Eleanor.

The Earl of Strafford, after having been condemned by his peers, through the influence of the vindictive members of the House of Commons, was this day executed upon Tower Hill, when he met his fate with the unshaken demeanor of conscious innocence and true Christian fortitude.

On Whitsunday, which fell upon the twelfth of May, the Duke of Marlborough obtained a splendid victory over the Elector of Bavaria and Marshal Villeroy at Ramillies; on which occasion, several thousands of the enemy fell, six thousand being made prisoners, with the major part of their artillery, baggage, &c. The loss sustained by the confederates was about two thousand men; while, among the persons of note, were Prince Lewis of Hesse, and Mr. Bentinck. The result of that victory was the surrender of Louvain the following morning, and, in ten days after, Brussels, Mechlin, Ghent, Oudenarde, Bruges, Antwerp, and other considerable places in Flanders and Brabant, which made their submission to the confederates, and acknowledged Charles the Third for their lawful sovereign.



MAY THE THIRTEENTH.

Death of King Henry VI.

With respect to the fate of this unfortunate monarch, historians uniformly agree in stating, that he fell by the hand of the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard the Third; who entering his chamber in the Tower of London, where he was confined, in cold blood, barbarously assassinated him. We do not wish to arrogate to ourselves a knowledge superior to those who lived so much nearer the time, when this event occurred; but we must beg leave to state, that after a perusal of the historic doubts published by the late Lord Orford, there appears great reason to believe, that many of the sanguinary deeds attributed to Richard, were not perpetrated by that prince. It would be ridiculous to assert, that Gloucester was not an ambitious character; but, on that account, to sully his memory with the numerous diabolical acts recorded in history, appears somewhat unjust; and after duly considering the publication above alluded to, rather problematical. Having said thus much, all we can do is to refer the reader to Lord Orford's production, which should be perused with due attention by

every person anxious to ascertain facts respecting the conduct and character of King Richard the Third.

**MAY THE FOURTEENTH.***Battle of Lewes, 1264.*

The first attempts of Henry the Third against his Barons were successful ; as Northampton, Leicester and Nottingham submitted to his power, when he proceeded to the county of Derby in order to ravage with fire and sword the estates of those who had espoused the cause of his opponents. The Earl of Leicester, on the other hand, was besieging Rochester, when he learned the King's successes ; upon which, he abandoned that enterprize, and retreated to London, where he was joined by fifteen thousand of the citizens. Both armies being thus nearly equal, they resolved to come to an engagement, and Leicester halted within about two miles of Lewes, in Sussex ; at the same time offering terms of accommodation, which he well knew the King would refuse. Henry having rejected those proposals with contempt, both sides prepared for battle with the utmost rancour and animosity, the Earl advancing near Lewes, where the King had ranged his forces to give him a proper reception. The royal army was formed in three divisions ; Prince Edward commanded on the right, Richard, the King's brother, who some time previous had been elected King of the Romans, was posted to the left ; and Henry remained in the centre. Leicester's army was formed into four bodies ; Henry de Montfort headed the first, the Earl of Gloucester the second, the Earl commanded the third in person, and the fourth formed of Londoners was headed by Nicholas Seagrave. To encourage the insurgents, the Bishop of Chichester gave general absolution, with assurances that those who fell in the fray would be rewarded in heaven for dying in such a glorious cause. Prince Edward began the conflict by rushing on the Londoners with such fury, that being unable to sustain the charge, they fled ; when

the prince, desirous of revenging the insults they had offered his mother, pursued them five miles off the field of battle with dreadful slaughter. But while the impetuous Edward made that imprudent use of his advantage, the Earl of Leicester, a skilful commander, pushed with all his forces against the enemy's left wing, which was soon routed, when the King and his brother were both made prisoners. On the return of the prince, he was soon surrounded and compelled to remain prisoner with another general named Henry d'Almain, as pledges, in the place of his royal father and uncle, who were released. It was then stipulated that the provisions of Oxford should continue in full force, subject to the revision of six Frenchmen, appointed by Louis of France; together with three of their own election, who were invested with ample powers to settle all disturbances then existing; such being termed the *Mise* of Lewes.



MAY. THE FIFTEENTH.

King John surrendered his crown to the Pope, 1212.—Battle of Hexham, 1463.—Mary Queen of Scots espoused Bothwell, 1566.

As the Pope proceeded to depose King John, and give his kingdom to the French monarch, the pusillanimous English prince was induced to promise the Emperor of Morocco to hold his kingdom from him, and abandon his religion, in case that Mahometan potentate would undertake to lend him assistance. The King of France in consequence of the proposals of the See of Rome, prepared to invade England, upon which John was compelled to submit to the shameful exactions stipulated by his holiness, in order to avert the threatened storm. The result was the resignation of his dominions by the English Prince to the papal power, submitting to hold them as tributary to him at the annual rental of a thousand marks, which donation having been confirmed in a solemn assembly of the clergy and laity this day, John was absolved from the anathema which had been thundered against him.

Margaret hearing the disastrous fate of her army, and sensible that no place in England could afford her further protection fled, with Henry and her son, to Scotland. But no calamity was able to repress the perseverance of that Princess, who, though so often overcome, was resolved once more to enter England, with five thousand men, granted her by the French King; and the unfortunate Henry was therefore led onward by his presence to enforce her claims. In this instance however, Margaret's former ill fortune attended her; for the fleet was dispersed by a tempest, while she herself escaped with difficulty by entering the mouth of the Tweed. Soon after a defeat, which her slender forces experienced at Hexham, seemed to render her cause desperate; and the cruelty which was practised upon all her adherents, made it still more dangerous.

The loss of this last battle had, as it were, deprived the Queen of every resource, as herself and the King her husband were obliged to seek safety in a separate flight, without attendants, or even the necessaries of life. The weak unfortunate Henry, always imprudent and unsuccessful, imagined that he might remain concealed in England; but his error was soon attended with the obvious consequences, for being taken prisoner, he was conducted to London with ignominy, and confined in the Tower. Margaret experienced better fortune, for when flying with her infant son through a forest, in order to conceal herself, she was beset by robbers, who either ignorant or regardless of her quality, despoiled her of her rings and jewels, and treated her with the utmost indignity. She, notwithstanding, found respectful treatment from one of those lawless men; who learning her rank, resolved to ensure the Queen's safety at the hazard of his own, and honourably conducted her to the sea coast; from whence she made her escape to her father in Flanders, who, though very poor, strove as well as he was able to supply her with the necessaries of life, during the residue of her days.

The title of Duke of Orkney having been conferred

on Bothwell, his marriage with the Queen, which had so long been the object of his ardent wishes, and the motive for his crimes, was solemnized on this day. The ceremony was performed in public, according to the rites of the Protestant church, by Adam Bothwell, Bishop of Orkney, one of the few prelates who had embraced the tenets of the Reformation; and on the same day it was also celebrated in private, according to the rituals prescribed by the popish religion. The boldness with which Craig, the minister, commanded to publish the banns, testified his sentiments against the design; the small number of nobles who were present at the marriage; and the sullen and disrespectful silence of the people, when the Queen appeared in public, were so many manifest symptoms of the violent and general dissatisfaction felt by her own subjects on that occasion. The refusal of Du Croc, the French ambassador, to be present at the nuptials, equally discovered the sentiments of her allies, in regard to that part of Mary's conduct; and although every other action of her life could be justified by the rules of prudence, or reconciled to the principles of virtue, this fatal marriage must remain an incontestible proof of her rashness, if not of her guilt.



MAY THE SIXTEENTH.

Sir Ralph Hopton defeated the Earl of Stamford, 1643,—Soul defeated at the Battle of Albuera, 1811.

At Stratton, in Cornwall, the forces of the Earl of Stamford were attacked by Sir Ralph Hopton, when the former experienced a defeat, Major Chudleigh and seventeen hundred of the Parliamentarians being made prisoners, for which service, Sir Ralph was created Baron Hopton of Stratton, on the 4th of September following.

On the morning of the 16th, Marshal Soul began to move his cavalry, crossing the rivulet of Albuera considerably above the right of the allied army.



The front of the British forces was the first object of his attack; against which he directed a strong force of cavalry, and two heavy columns of infantry, while at the same time he filed the great body of his infantry over the river beyond the right of the allied army, under the cover and protection of his superior bodies of cavalry. By that manœuvre the French threatened to turn the flank of the allies, and cut them off from Valverde. This, however, was prevented by the change of movement on the part of General Cole's division, and the Spanish troops under General Blake. The next object of the enemy was the possession of the rising ground on which part of the Spanish forces was posted. By gaining possession of that height he would have been enabled to command the position of the greater part of the allied army, and thus rendered their situation extremely critical, and probably decided the fate of the day. The Spanish troops on the rising ground fought well for some time, but at length gave way and the French gained the eminence, who, conceiving they had won the battle, raised a shout of joy and congratulation.

As the allied army immediately began to feel the dreadful consequences of the height being in possession of the French, General Beresford determined, if possible, to drive them from it. For that purpose the right brigade of General Stewart's division, under Lieut. Colonel Colburne, advanced, keeping up a well directed and heavy fire; but as the enemy stood firm, it was found necessary to attack him with the bayonet. While the British were in the act of charging, a body of Polish cavalry, armed with long lances, (whom the thickness of the atmosphere and the nature of the ground had concealed), turned and threw them into confusion. The slaughter there was in consequence dreadful, as nearly the whole column was cut off, and the enemy still kept possession of the heights. The third brigade, under Major Houghton, next came up, who fell in the act of cheering his men as they advanced to the charge which proved successful, the enemy being forced from the rising ground and driven down to the banks of the river with most dreadful slaughter.

That was the principal point of the enemy's attack; but while it was carrying on, the front of the allied army, posted at the village and bridge, was also attacked; but the contest was not so arduous nor so long doubtful, as the French were repulsed and driven back with considerable loss. While their infantry was making that attack on the right of the allies, the cavalry endeavoured to turn it; but though much more numerous their endeavours were completely frustrated. At the point in question, the attack of the enemy terminated, who, routed on all sides, retired across the Albuera, where his cavalry being superior, General Beresford did not pursue him. In this battle the loss of the French was nearly eight thousand men in killed, wounded, and prisoners, while that of the allies amounted to about seven thousand, the greater part of whom were British.

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**MAY THE SEVENTEENTH.**

*Mary Queen of Scots defeated by Murray at Langside,  
1568.—Battle of Killycrankie, 1689.*

Mary, whose hopes were naturally sanguine, and her passions impetuous, was so elevated by her sudden transition from the depths of distress to such an unusual appearance of prosperity, that she never doubted of success. Her army, which was double the number of the enemy's, consisted chiefly of the Hamiltons and their dependants. Of those, the Archbishop of St. Andrews had the chief direction, and hoped by a victory, not only to crush the regent Murray, an ancient enemy of his house, but get the person of the Queen into his hands, and then oblige her to marry one of the Duke's sons, or, at least, commit the chief direction of her affairs to himself. His ambition, however, proved fatal to the Queen, to himself, and to his family.

Mary's imprudence in resolving to deliver battle was not greater than the ill-conduct of her generals during the conflict. Between the two armies, on the road towards Dumbarton, there was an eminence called Langside Hill.

That spot the regent had had the precaution to seize, posting his troops in a small village, and among some gardens and enclosures adjacent. In this advantageous situation, Murray waited the approach of the enemy; whose superiority in cavalry could be of no benefit to them on such broken ground. The Hamiltons, who composed the vanguard, flew so eagerly to the attack, that they put themselves out of breath, and left the main battle behind. The encounter of the spearmen was fierce and desperate; but as the forces of the Hamiltonians were exposed on the one flank to a continual fire from a body of musqueteers, attacked on the other by the Regent's choicest troops, and not supported by the rest of the Queen's army, they were soon obliged to give ground, and the rout immediately became universal. Few victories in a civil war, and among a fierce people, have been pursued with less violence, or attended with less bloodshed.

Three hundred fell on the field; but during the flight few were killed, as the regent and his principal officers rode about beseeching the soldiers to spare the effusion of blood. The number of prisoners, however, was great, among whom were many persons of distinction. The regent then marched back to Glasgow, and returned public thanks to God for that signal and on his side, almost bloodless victory.

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Viscount Dundee having determined to espouse the interests of James the Second in Scotland, raised an army in conjunction with the partizans of the Stuarts, when the battle of Killycrankie was fought this day, in which the Viscount being slain, the Highlanders despairing of success, and wearied out by repeated discomfitures and misfortunes, dispersed, and repaired to their homes.

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MAY THE EIGHTEENTH.

*Cromwell voted Captain-General in Ireland, 1652.—
 Deputations presented themselves to Charles the
 Second at the Hague, 1660.*

The House of Commons voted that the Act for consti-

tuting Oliver Cromwell Captain-General of the republican forces of England should extend to the army in Ireland, at which General Lambert was disgusted, who had been promised the Lieutenancy of that kingdom.

A Committee, consisting of six Lords and twelve Commoners, attended King Charles the Second at the Hague, with an invitation to his Majesty to return and assume the government of England; at the same time tendering to his Majesty fifty thousand pounds which had been voted by Parliament for his use; the Duke of York at the same time receiving ten thousand, and the Duke of Gloucester five thousand pounds. A deputation of the City of London also presented itself with sums for the King and his royal brothers, which was further accompanied by deputies from the Presbyterians, who besought Charles to revive the Common Prayer into use, in his chapel; to whom the King answered with some warmth of temper, "That while he accorded them liberty, he would not suffer his own to be infringed upon."

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**MAY THE NINETEENTH.**

*Anne Bolen decapitated, 1586.—Battle of La Hogue, 1692.*

The numerous enemies of Anne Bolen were not remiss in forming accusations against her. The Duke of Norfolk from his attachment to the old religion took care to produce several witnesses accusing her of incontinency with some of the meaner servants of the court. Four persons were particularly pointed out as her paramours; Henry Norris, groom of the stole; one Weston, and Brereton, a gentleman of the King's bed-chamber, together with Mark Smeton, a musician. As those persons had served Anne with much assiduity, their respect might have been construed by suspicion into more tender attachment. The Queen was therefore sent to the Tower, earnestly protesting her innocence, and offering up prayers to heaven for assistance in that

extremity. She in vain begged to be admitted to the royal presence; the Lady Bolen, her uncle's wife, who hated her, was ordered to continue in the same chamber, who made a report of all the incoherent ravings of the afflicted prisoner. She owned having once rallied Norris on delaying his marriage, and had told him that he probably expected to have her, when she should be a widow. That she had reproved Weston for his affection to a kinswoman of hers, and his indifference towards his wife; when he had informed her that she mistook the object of his affections, which was herself. She affirmed that Smeton had never been in her chamber but twice, when he had played on the harpsichord, but acknowledged he once had the boldness to tell her that a look sufficed him.

Every person at court then abandoned the unhappy Queen, except Cranmer, who, though forbidden to appear in the King's presence, wrote a letter to him in behalf of Anne Bolen, but his intercession produced no effect. On the twelfth of May, Norris, Weston, Brereton, and Smeton, were tried in Westminster-hall, when the latter was prevailed upon, by a promise of pardon, to confess a criminal correspondence with the Queen; but he was never confronted with the accused, and his execution with the rest shortly after served to acquit her of the charge. Norris having been much in the King's favour, had an offer of his life in case, he confessed his crime and accused his mistress; but he rejected the proposal with contempt, and died professing her innocence and his own.

In the mean time Anne Bolen endeavoured to soften the King to spare the lives of those unfortunate men, whose death had been decreed. But Henry's was a stern jealousy fostered by pride; and nothing but her removal could appease him. Her letter to the King on that occasion was full of the tenderest expostulations, and so remarkable that we cannot omit the ensuing extracts, as they serve at once to point out the situation of her mind, and demonstrate to what a pitch of refinement she had carried the English language at the period in question.

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“ Sir,—Your Grace’s displeasure and my imprisonment, are things so strange to me, as what to write or what to excuse I am altogether ignorant. Whereas you send unto me (willing me to confess), and so obtain your favour by such an one whom you know to be mine ancient enemy. I no sooner received this message by him than I rightly conceived your meaning; and if, as you say, confessing a truth indeed may procure my safety, I shall with all willingness and duty perform your command.

“ But let not your Grace ever imagine that your poor wife will ever be brought to acknowledge a fault when not so much as a thought thereof preceded. And to speak a truth never Prince had wife more loyal in all duty and all true affection than you have ever found in Anne Bolen, with which name and place I could willingly have contented myself, if God and your Grace’s pleasure had been so pleased. Neither did I at any time so far forget myself in my exaltation or received queenship, but that I always looked for such an alteration as I now find; for the ground of my preferment being on no surer foundation than your Grace’s fancy, the least alteration I know was fit and sufficient to draw that fancy to some other object. You have chosen me from a low estate to be your Queen and companion far beyond my desert or desire.

“ If then you have found me worthy such honor, good your Grace let not any light fancy or bad council of mine enemies withdraw your princely favour from me; neither let that stain, that unworthy stain of a disloyal heart towards your good Grace ever cast so foul a blot on your most dutiful wife, and the infant princess your daughter.

“ My last and only request shall be, that myself may only bear the burthen of your Grace’s displeasure; and that it may not touch the innocent souls of these poor gentlemen, who are, as I understand, in strait imprisonment for my sake.

“ If ever I have found favour in your sight; if ever the name of Anne Bolen hath been pleasing to your

ears, then let me obtain this request ; and I will so leave to trouble your Grace any farther, with mine earnest prayers to the Trinity to have your Grace in his good keeping, and to direct you in all your actions. From my doleful prison in the Tower, this sixth May.

“ Your most loyal and ever faithful wife,

“ ANNE BOLEN.”

She, who had been once the envied object of royal power, was now going to display a melancholy instance of the capriciousness of fortune. On her return to prison, she once more sent a protestation of her innocence to the King. “ You have raised me,” said she, “ from privacy, to make me a lady ; from a lady you made me a countess ; from a countess a Queen ; and from a Queen, I shall shortly become a saint in heaven.” On the morning of her execution, Anne sent for Kingston, the keeper of the Tower, to whom, upon entering the prison, she said, “ Mr. Kingston, I hear I am not to die till noon, and I am sorry for it, for I thought to be dead before this time, and free from a life of pains.” The keeper attempting to comfort her, by assuring her the pain would be very little, she replied, “ I have heard the executioner is very expert ;” and clasping her neck with her hands, laughingly said, “ I have but a little neck.” When brought to the scaffold, from a consideration of her child Elizabeth’s welfare, she would not inflame the minds of the spectators against her persecutors, but merely stated, “ That she was come to die as she was sentenced by the law ; she would accuse none, nor say any thing of the ground upon which she was judged. She prayed heartily for the King, calling him a most merciful and gentle prince ; that he had always been to her a good and gracious sovereign ; and that, if any should think proper to canvass her cause, she desired him to judge the best.” Anne was beheaded by the executioner of Calais, who was brought over as being more expert than any in England. Her body was negligently thrown into a common chest, made to hold arrows, and buried in the Tower. Anne Bolen seemed to be guilty of no other crime than that of having



survived the King's affections, and was the first crowned head who, having gone through all the forms of law, was beheaded on a scaffold.

In Tindal's edition of Rapin, Vol. 6, p. 577, he states, that on the morning of Anne Bolen's execution, the firing off of a cannon was the preconcerted signal to mark the moment when her head was struck off. The King was then hunting in Epping Forest, who, upon hearing the report, having been refreshing himself, sprang upon his legs, and exclaimed, "Ha! ha! the business is done; uncouple the hounds; let us follow the sport." According to some authorities, he was married the same evening to Lady Jane Seymour, while others defer the account of those nuptials until the ensuing day.

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The English and Dutch fleets, under the command of Admiral Russel, engaged the fleet of France, under Tourville, when the latter was completely defeated, and driven on his own coast, where, at La Hogue and other places, no less than twenty-one of the enemy's largest men of war were destroyed; among which was the French admiral's ship, the *Rising Sun*, that was fired within sight of the French army, assembled in order to make a descent upon the English coast. As soon as the victorious fleet arrived at Spithead, Queen Mary sent thirty thousand pounds to be distributed among the seamen, with gold medals for the officers. She also ordered the bodies of Admiral Carter and Captain Hastings, who had been killed, to be honorably buried at the charge of the crown.

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MAY THE TWENTIETH.

*Julius Cæsar defeated the Britons 56 years before Christ.—Marriage of Henry the Eighth to Jane Seymour, 1536.—Charles the Second landed at Dover, 1660.—Mutiny at the Nore, 1797.*

Julius Cæsar having made his second descent in Great Britain, with a fleet consisting of six hundred vessels and

twenty-eight galleys, with five legions and two thousand horse, advanced to the Stour, near the spot where Canterbury stands, and there overthrew the Britons. He then marched to the Thames, which he traversed at Coway Stakes, near Oatlands, and penetrated as far as Verulam, the capital of King Cassibelan.

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The English people witnessed Anne Bolen's fate with pity, which was increased when they discovered the cause of the tyrant's impatience to destroy her, as on the ensuing day after her execution he espoused the Lady Jane Seymour, his callous heart being in no measure softened by the untimely fate of one who had so recently shared his warmest affections.

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King Charles the Second landed at Dover, on which occasion he was received by General Monk and the leading personages of the realm, who welcomed his return to England with unfeigned demonstrations of joy.

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The mutiny among the seamen at the Nore, which it was hoped had been finally quelled, broke out with more alarming circumstances on this day. The spirit of insubordination appeared chiefly at Sheerness, and the Nore, delegates being appointed from all the ships, who sat on board the Sandwich of 98 guns. Those men not only superseded all the Captains in their command, but their President (Richard Parker) acted as Admiral of the Fleet, and was implicitly obeyed in that character.

After several remonstrances on the part of the delegates, and an attempt to negotiate through the medium of Lord Northesk, the mutineers were given to understand that nothing but unconditional submission would be accepted by government.

At length the dread of vigorous measures about to be resorted to produced the desired effect, and in consequence the moderate and well-affected part of the crews were encouraged to make exertions to emancipate themselves from the tyranny of their mutinous brethren. The violent and rebellious were by that means confounded and

dismayed, when ultimately several of the mutineers, with their president (Parker), were arraigned, tried, and executed.



#### MAY THE TWENTY-FIRST.

*Death of King Arthur, 542.—Marquis of Montrose beheaded, 1649.—Napoleon defeated at Acre, 1799.*

Modred, nephew of King Arthur, having privily misused the Queen, and then publicly married her during the monarch's absence, surrendered part of his uncle's dominions to Cerdic, and was crowned King of the remainder at London. At the return of Arthur from Armorica and his discovery of Modred's villany, he raised forces, and having defeated the latter in many encounters, a decisive battle was fought near Camelford, in which the King and his treacherous nephew both fell, and with their monarch all the hopes of the Britons. Arthur was buried at Glastonbury, aged ninety, of which seventy-six years had been spent in the continued exercise of arms: his birth-place is said to have been Tindagel, in Cornwall.

It is remarkable that while the Scots were inviting Charles the Second over, they were nevertheless cruelly punishing those who had adhered to his cause. Among others the Earl of Montrose, one of the bravest, most polite, and finished characters of that age, was taken prisoner, while endeavouring to raise the Highlanders in the royal cause; and being brought to Edinburgh was hanged on a gibbet thirty feet high, then quartered, and his limbs exposed in the principal towns of the kingdom.

Yet, notwithstanding all that severity to his followers, Charles ventured into Scotland, and had the mortification to enter the gate of Edinburgh, while the limbs of his faithful adherent, Montrose, were still exposed to public view.

General Bonaparte having been uniformly repulsed by Sir Sidney Smith in all his attacks upon Saint John d'Acre, the French raised the siege of that place, after having kept the trenches open for the space of 60 days.



**MAY THE TWENTY-SECOND.**

*The Baronetage established, 1611.*

The Order of Baronets was first instituted by King James the First, which dignity was bestowed by that monarch on seventy-five families.

**MAY THE TWENTY-THIRD.**

*Battle of St. Albans fought, 1455.—Henry the Eighth divorced from Catherine of Arragon, 1533.—The Irish Rebellion broke out, 1798.*

York being thus invested with a plenitude of power, continued to enjoy it for some time, but at length the unhappy King Henry, recovering from his lethargic complaint, and as if awakened from a dream, perceived with surprise that he was stripped of all authority. Margaret, his Queen, did all in her power to rouse the monarch to a sense of his unworthy situation, and prevailed upon him to depose the Duke of York from his power, in consequence of which, that nobleman had instant recourse to arms. The impotent king, thus obliged to take the field, was dragged after his army to St. Albans, where both sides came to an engagement, in which the Yorkists gained a complete victory, the Duke of Somerset being there slain, with the Earls of Northumberland and Stafford, and the Lord Clifford, together with five thousand men; the loss on the part of the Yorkists being six hundred. The King himself was also wounded, and taking shelter in a cottage near the field of battle, was made prisoner, and treated by the victor with great respect and tenderness. From thence Henry was shortly after led in triumph to London, when the Duke of York permitting him to enjoy the name of King, reserved to himself the title of Protector, in which consisted all the real power of the crown.

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The Convocation declared the marriage of Henry the Eighth with Catherine of Arragon void, when the Archbishop of Canterbury pronounced the sentence of divorce,

and the King's marriage with Anne Bolen duly confirmed ; but the Pope subsequently annulled that sentence.

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An open rebellion broke out in several parts of Ireland, bordering on the metropolis, where skirmishes took place between the military and the insurgents, in which the latter were uniformly defeated. The northern mail coach was also attacked and burnt by a party of the rebels, near Dublin, and the Galway coach was equally beset, and nearly destroyed.

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MAY THE TWENTY-FOURTH.

Death of David the First of Scotland, 1151.—Battle of Naas in Ireland, 1798.

David the First succeeded his brother Alexander the First, and after a reign of ten years, during which he proved himself one of the most valiant and pious princes of his time, died, and was succeeded by his grandson Malcolm the Fourth.

A party of one thousand rebels, armed with muskets and pikes, led on by Captain Michael Reynolds, attacked the town of Naas, in the county of Kildare, but were defeated by a military detachment, under the command of Lord Gosford, leaving two hundred dead upon the field. The loss of his Majesty's troops on that occasion was very trifling, whereas military parties in the villages of Prosperous and Kilcullen were surprised by the rebels, and nearly cut to pieces. In the afternoon, General Dundas came up with a considerable body of the enemy near the hills of Kilcullen, whom he entirely routed with the loss of a hundred men ; no quarter being given to the rebels. In the evening of this day, numerous detachments of the rebels continued undispersed in the vicinity of the capital.

MAY THE TWENTY-FIFTH.

St. Dunstan died, 989.—King John surrendered up his crown to Pandulph, 1213.—Joan of Arc made prisoner, 1430.—St. Lucia captured by General Abercrombie, 1796.—The Irish Rebels defeated at Hacketstown and Baltinglass, 1798.

Dunstan, who stands enrolled upon the saintly calendar, died on this day, after having made a considerable figure in his time. He is said to have lived secluded from the world, in a cell of such narrow dimensions, that he could neither stand erect, nor lay down stretched at full length in it. His supposed illuminations were frequent, and his temptations strong, which he uniformly resisted with bravery; nor is the story told by monkish writers the least of the wonders related of Dunstan, when they gravely assert his having seized the devil by the nose with a pair of red hot pincers, for having paid him a visit in the form of a beautiful female, for the purpose of tempting him to sin. From the hands of this churchman, then Archbishop of Canterbury, Ethelred received his crown, upon which occasion the first coronation oath was administered, while about the same period juries were instituted.

Pandulph having been appointed the Pope's legate, arrived in England, when King John was too much intimidated by the danger of his situation, not to embrace any terms that might lead to ensure the safety of his crown. The pusillanimous monarch therefore took an oath, to abide by any stipulations the papal see should think fit to enforce; and having thus bound himself to the performance of an unknown command, the wily Italian so well managed the discontented barons, and intimidated the King, as to persuade him to subscribe to the most extraordinary oath recorded in history. On that occasion, John, in presence of the people, prostrate upon his knees, with his hands upraised, and held between those of the Legate, surrendered up to the Romish church the kingdom of England, and all other prerogatives of his crown; stiling himself thenceforward the vassal of Pope Innocent, and his successors for ever.

The Duke of Burgundy, at the head of a powerful army, laid siege to Compeigne, in which town, the maid of Orleans had thrown herself, contrary to the wishes of the governor; that commander not desiring the company of one, whose authority would be greater than his own. The garrison, however, was rejoiced at her appearance, and believed the soldiers invincible under her protection. But their joy was of short duration; for Joan having, the day after her arrival, headed a sally, and twice driven the enemy from his entrenchments, was ultimately obliged to retire, bravely placing herself in the rear in order to protect the retreat of her forces. In the end, however, attempting to follow her troops into the city, she found the gates closed, and the bridge drawn up by order of the governor, who is supposed to have long sought the opportunity of delivering her up to the enemy.

The whole French force, constituting the garrison of Saint Lucia, was captured by the British forces under the gallant General Abercrombie.

The Irish rebels were defeated at Hacketstown, in the county of Carlow, and at Baltinglass, in the county of Wicklow, with great loss; as well as at Clare, Baltimore, Barretstown, Lucan, and Lusk. The rebels also burnt the principal part of the town of Kilcullin, and some houses in the city of Carlow, where a dreadful conflict took place, in which the enemy lost so many men, that the travellers from Dublin to the south were obliged to pass over the mangled carcases of the slain. On this day the rebels also possessed themselves of several important posts, in the neighbourhood of the Irish metropolis; and destroyed the bridge of Milcullin, in order to cut off all communications with the south.

MAY THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

Death of Wat Tyler, 1381.—Second landing of the Emperor Charles the Fifth in England, 1532.

A body of insurgents had broken into the Tower, and

murdered the Chancellor, the Primate, and the Treasurer of England, with some other officers of distinction. They then divided into bodies, and took up their different quarters in the city; at the head of one of which was Wat Tyler, who led his men into Smithfield, where he was met by King Richard the Second, who invited him to a conference under pretence of hearing and redressing his grievances. Tyler then ordered his men to retire until he should give them a signal, and boldly ventured to meet the King in the midst of his retinue; upon which, the conference began. The demands of that demagogue are censured by all the historians of the time, as having been insolent and extravagant; notwithstanding which, nothing can be more just than those they have delivered as emanating from him. He required that all slaves should be set free; that every commonage should be open to the poor, as well as the rich; and that a general pardon should be passed for the late outrages. Whilst Tyler made those demands, he now and then raised his sword in a menacing manner; which insolence so exasperated William Walworth, then Mayor of London, attending on the monarch, that, without considering the danger to which his Majesty was thereby exposed, he stunned the rebel leader with a blow of his mace, while one of the King's knights riding up dispatched him with his sword. It was in consequence of this act, that a dagger was added to the arms of the city of London, in addition to which Sir William Walworth was knighted, with several of the aldermen, and lands granted to the city for ever.

The Emperor Charles the Fifth arrived a second time in England, and landed at Dover this day, where he was received with great pomp and magnificence by Henry the Eighth, who, on the 6th of June following, conducted him into London. That great potentate continued in England until the 5th of July, and during his stay was installed a Knight of the Garter. He appointed the Earl of Surrey admiral of his fleet, who made a descent upon the French coast, and acquired a rich booty; nor was he less particular in his attention to the reigning favourite, Cardinal

Wolsey, on whom he lavished signal proofs of his imperial favour.



MAY THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.

Coronation of King John, 1199.—Richard, Duke of Gloucester, named Protector, 1483.—Habeas Corpus Act passed, 1679.—Battle of Taragh Hill, 1798.

The inauguration of King John took place in Westminster Abbey, when Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury officiated; who, as a recompense for his fidelity, was appointed by that prince Lord Chancellor of England; having been the first Archbishop on whom that high dignity had been conferred.

Upon the demise of Edward the Fourth, England was divided into two new factions; the Queen's family, which had acquired great ascendancy during the late reign, and the ancient nobility, who could not bear to act in subordination to persons they considered in every respect their inferiors. During his lifetime, Edward had been able to check, and keep those animosities within bounds; and upon his death-bed, endeavoured as much as possible to guard against their increase in future. He also expressed a desire that his brother, the Duke of Gloucester, should be entrusted with the regency during the minority of Edward the Fifth; strenuously recommending peace and unanimity. No sooner, however, had the monarch breathed his last, than the contending factions broke out with all their former resentments; and Gloucester, a crafty and ambitious prince, determined to render their contentions subservient to his private views of aggrandizement.

The House of Commons voted the standing army of Charles the Second, as well as his guards, to be illegal; and they proceeded to establish limits to the King's power, respecting the imprisoning delinquents at will. It was then the celebrated and ever memorable statute, called



the Habeas Corpus Act, was passed, which confirmed the subject in absolute security from oppressive power. By that edict, it was prohibited that any one should be committed to prison beyond sea; and no judge, under severe penalties, was to refuse any prisoner his writ of Habeas Corpus; whereby, the gaoler must produce in court the body of the prisoner, from whence such writ derived its name; and it was also to certify the cause of his detention and imprisonment. If the gaol be within twenty miles of the judge, the writ must be obeyed in three days, and so proportionately for greater distances. Every prisoner must be indicted the first term after his commitment, and brought to trial the subsequent term; and no man after being enlarged by court, can be re-committed for the same offence.

A numerous body of the rebels was defeated on the hill of Taragh, about twenty-five miles south of Dublin, by a detachment of his Majesty's forces. Three hundred and fifty of the enemy were left dead on the field; the loss on the part of the King's troops being only nine rank and file killed, and sixteen wounded.

The insurrection also broke out in great force in the county of Wexford, and the rebels cut off a detachment of the north Cork militia, consisting of one hundred men; those insurgents being under the orders of Mr. Bagenal Harvey, Mr. Roche, and Captain Keogh.

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**MAY THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

*Victory obtained over the Dutch in Southwold Bay, 1672.—Lord Howe's Victory, 1794.—Surrender of a large body of the Irish Rebels, 1798.*

James, Duke of York, afterwards King James the Second, engaged the Dutch in Southwold Bay, at the commencement of which action the enemy acquired some advantage, having the weather gage; but in the evening the Dutch fled, who were pursued by the English Admiral to their own coast. That conflict was most vigorously dis-

puted on either side, and continued from morning till night, during which some thousands fell, and among the rest the gallant Earl of Sandwich, Admiral of the Blue, whose ship was set on fire and blew up. The French also lost their Rear Admiral, Monsieur de la Rabiniere, and the Dutch, de Ghent, commander of their Blue squadron.

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This day was fought the glorious engagement between Lord Howe and the French fleet, the news of which arrived at the Admiralty on the first of June following. The French fleet was discovered far to windward, and partial actions previously took place; however, on the 28th of May, the weather gage having been obtained, and the British fleet being in a situation to bring the enemy to close action, the ships bore up together for that purpose. The French force consisted of twenty-six ships of the line, while that of the English amounted to twenty-five. The Audacious having parted company with the sternmost of the enemy's line with which she had been engaged; in less than an hour after a close action began at the centre, and terminated in the French Admiral, who had been engaged by the Queen Charlotte, crowding off, when he was followed by most of the ships of his van in condition to carry sail, leaving with the English fleet twelve of his crippled or dismasted ships, exclusive of one sunk during the conflict. Some of those disabled vessels however escaped, owing to the shattered state of the British fleet itself, so that ultimately only seven were secured, of which one sunk before the requisite assistance could be given to her crew.

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Four thousand rebels laid down their arms on the Curragh of Kildare to General Dundas, and delivered up some of their leaders on being promised his Majesty's pardon. The town of Kildare, which had for some days been in possession of the enemy, was retaken by General Duff, who had marched from Limerick for the purpose of opening a communication between the capital and the south.

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**MAY THE TWENTY-NINTH.**

*Charles the First reviewed his Army in Scotland, 1639 — Charles the Second restored, 1660.*

The royal forces, commanded by King Charles in Scotland amounted to 19,614 men, besides 5000 on board the fleet, together with his own body guards, and the garrisons of Berwick and Carlisle, which army was reviewed by the monarch in person, previous to his commencement of hostile operations against the Scotch. However, while the monarch made those vigorous preparations, his enemies were by no means idle, who having united their forces, marched upon Edinburgh and Dumharton, the castles of which places fell into their possession.

This being the birth-day of King Charles the Second, he made a triumphal entry into the city of London, and received his nobles at Whitehall.

**MAY THE THIRTIETH.**

*Death of Joan of Arc, 1431.—Wexford captured by the Irish Rebels, 1798.*

Joan of Arc, who had been regarded as a saint on account of her successes, was, at the time of her captivity, considered in the light of a sorceress, forsaken by the demon who had only granted her fallacious and temporary assistance.

It was therefore resolved, in council, that she should be sent to Rouen for trial as a witch; the Bishop of Beauvais, a man totally devoted to the English interest, presented a petition against her for that purpose, and the University of Paris on the same occasion proved so mean as to join in a similar request. Several prelates, and among the rest the Cardinal of Winchester, who was the only Englishman present, were appointed as her judges, who held their court in Rouen, where Henry then resided, on which occasion the maid clothed in her former military apparel, but loaded with irons, was produced before their tribunal.

Her behaviour in no way disgraced her former gal-

lantry; she betrayed neither weakness nor feminine submission, but appealed to God and the Pope for the truth of her former revelations. The result, however, was her being found guilty of heresy and witchcraft, when she was sentenced to be burned alive, the common punishment then awarded for such offences.

Previous, however, to the infliction of that dreadful sentence, the Council resolved to make the culprit abjure her former errors; and at length so far prevailed upon this wretched victim, by terror and rigorous treatment, that her spirits were entirely broken by the hardships she endured. The result was that her former visionary dreams began to vanish, and a gloomy distrust assumed the place of her late inspirations. Joan therefore publicly declared herself willing to recant, and promised never more to give way to the vain delusions which had previously misled her, such having been the result desired by her sanguinary oppressors, who willing to demonstrate a feigned appearance of mercy, changed their sentence into perpetual imprisonment, on bread and water; but the rage of her enemies was not to be thus satisfied. Impelled by implacable animosity, those sanguinary persecutors, after subjecting her modesty to the most abominable insults, literally bereaved her of the female costume she had consented to adopt, substituting in its stead male apparel, which having been compelled to assume, from motives of decency, as guards were stationed in her dungeon, that circumstance so artfully planned, subjected Joan to the imputation of being a relapse. The consequence was, that no recantation could suffice, and no pardon was to be granted, and this heroic creature suffered her sentence, which was being burnt alive in one of the market places of Rouen, the same being executed upon her this day.

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The city of Wexford was captured by a numerous body of rebels from Vinegar-hill; and a military detachment, under the command of General Fawcett, defeated by the enemy, and that commander forced to retreat to Duncannon fort.

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MAY THE THIRTY-FIRST.*Discovery of Waller's Plot, 1643.*

The Plot, called Waller's Plot, for delivering up the city of London to King Charles the First, came under the examination of the parliament at this time.

The nobility and people of distinction in London, as well as the most substantial citizens, being weary of the war, associated and adopted the resolution of endeavouring to depose the chiefs of the opposition, and offering his Majesty equitable terms of peace, when in case the same should be refused, they resolved to form a party in the city, sufficiently powerful, to oppose the levying of taxes for the continuance of the war. Pym having gained some intelligence on this head, pretended that a plot was hatching to destroy the Parliament and deliver up the city of London to the King; and Waller being one of the most considerable or most active men in promoting that project, it obtained the name of Waller's Plot. Tomkins and Chaloner, two of the leaders, were tried and condemned by a council of war, but Waller being a member of Parliament appealed from that Council to the House, where he made such a moving defence, as to escape with his life. It was, however, supposed that as much rhetoric was made through the application of his treasure among the leading men of that party, as by his speech; particularly among the preachers, for he possessed an estate of £4000 per annum, a fortune which few commoners were masters of at the period in question.

JUNE THE FIRST.*Engagement between the Chesapeake and the Shannon, 1813.*

The celebrated American frigate, called the Chesapeake, was captured by the Shannon, after a most spirited action of fifteen minutes.

JUNE THE SECOND.

Nuptials of Henry the Fifth, 1420.—Admiral Blake defeated Van Tromp, 1653.—Riots broke out in consequence of an Act in favour of the Catholics, 1780.

On the 20th of May, 1420, Henry the Fifth was affianced to Catherine, daughter of Charles the Sixth of France, at Troyes, in Champagne, when he was declared Regent of France and heir to that crown; and on the 2nd of June following was married to that Princess at the above city; who on the ninth of February, 1421, was solemnly inaugurated Queen of England at Westminster.

The Dutch fleet, under Van Tromp, and the English, commanded by General Monk, amounting to one hundred men of war on either side, came to an engagement off the North Foreland. On the discharge of the first broadside Admiral Dean fell, being struck by a cannon ball. The engagement was protracted during two days, and terminated in favour of the British, who obtained a brilliant victory, in which the Dutch, after losing twenty ships, were pursued by the conquerors to the entrance of their own harbours.

The Protestant Association, to the number of fifty thousand souls, headed by Lord George Gordon, proceeded to the House of Commons in order to present their petition for the repeal of an Act which had passed the legislature in favour of the Roman Catholics. That event, which occurred on the present day, was immediately followed by the most daring riots, in the city of London and Southwark, for several succeeding days, in the progress of which numerous Romish places of worship were demolished, together with the prisons of Newgate, the Fleet, King's-bench, and numerous mansions of private individuals professing the Catholic faith. Those shameful outrages were at length suppressed through the interposition of the military, though not without the effusion of much blood, while many of the rioters being subsequently tried, were condemned for felony, and executed accordingly.

JUNE THE THIRD.

Charles the First seized at Holmby, 1647.—Death of Dr. Harvey, 1647.—Defeat of the Dutch Admiral De Ruyter, 1666.

The unhappy Charles continued a prisoner at Holmby Castle, and as his countenance might add some authority to the side which should acquire it, Cromwell, who secretly conducted all the measures of the army, while apparently exclaiming against its violence, resolved to make himself master of the royal person. A party of five hundred horse was accordingly dispatched to Holmby, under the command of one Joyce, who had originally been a taylor, but in the confusion of all ranks and orders, was advanced to the post of cornet. Having entered the King's apartment without opposition, armed with a brace of pistols, he bluntly informed the King that he must prepare to accompany him. "Whither?" demanded his Majesty. "To the army," was the reply. "By what warrant?" resumed the monarch—upon which Joyce pointed to his followers. "Your warrant," the King then remarked, "is written in fair characters." When, without further delay, the unfortunate captive mounted into the carriage that awaited, and was conducted in safety to the army, then rapidly marching for its rendezvous at Triploheath, near Cambridge. The following day Cromwell arrived among the forces, when he was greeted with acclamations of joy, and instantly invested with supreme command.

Doctor Harvey was the eldest son of a respectable family established at Folkstone in Kent, who on attaining his tenth year, was sent to the grammar school at Canterbury, from whence, having acquired a classical education, he was removed to Gonvil and Caius college, Cambridge. In that University Harvey sedulously applied to those studies fundamentally connected with medicine, and then commenced his travels on the continent to acquire a thorough insight as regarded his profession. At Padua he attended the lectures of the famous Fabricius of Aqua-

pendente on anatomy; of Minadaus, on pharmacy; and of Caperius, on surgery. With a mind naturally inquisitive and devoted to medical research, his progress under such distinguished masters must have been very rapid, but whether he had then conceived any idea on the subject, which conduced to his future celebrity, has never been ascertained.

In 1615 Harvey was chosen by the College to read an anatomical lecture, and it is probable that gave him the first opportunity of disclosing his sentiments respecting the structure of the heart and the circulation of the blood. His original suppositions were thrown out with caution, and gradually developed the important principles to which they led; but as soon as he had thoroughly canvassed his own hypothesis and confirmed it by experiments, he published a Latin treatise at Frankfort concerning the motion of the heart and blood. That production is, in the opinion of the most able judges, a masterpiece of perspicuity in arrangement, and the most powerful reasoning, nor is it, as a literary production, inferior to the sublime principles it inculcates.

James the First, in 1623, appointed Dr. Harvey a supernumerary physician in ordinary, subsequent to which he was made physician to Charles the First, whom he attended at the battle of Edge Hill, and from thence to Oxford, where he was incorporated doctor in physic. During the latter period of his life, this great physician became a victim to the gout, and resigned his breath with universal admiration and regret on the 3rd of June, 1657, when he was interred at Hempstead, in Essex, where a monument was raised to his memory.

The Dutch fleet, consisting of ninety sail, under de Ruyter and Van Tromp, fell upon that part of the British fleet which was commanded by the Duke of Albemarle, consisting of fifty sail only, who notwithstanding, maintained the battle for three days, though the enemy was joined on the morning of the second by sixteen more vessels. On the 3rd of June Prince Rupert having formed a junction with the Duke, the engagement was renewed

and fought with such determined courage and obstinacy, that neither side had much reason for triumph, being compelled to sail back to their own harbours in order to refit. On that occasion the English had nine ships taken and burnt, having to lament the loss of Sir William Berkley and Sir Christopher Mings; Sir George Ascough was also made prisoner, his ship, the *Prince*, a first rate, being burnt, while many thousands of seamen perished.

The Dutch lost fifteen sail of the line, together with Admiral Eeverts, twenty-one captains, and five thousand souls. The famous *De Wit* was on board the Dutch fleet, and is said to have tried his invention of chain shot on this occasion, which did infinite damage to the rigging of the English fleet.

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#### JUNE THE FOURTH.

*Edward the First assumed dominion over Scotland, 1290:—The Field of Cloth of Gold, 1520.*

Baliol finding that all attempts to resist the victorious career of Edward the First was vain, hastened to ratify a peace with the conqueror, expressing the deepest repentance for his former disloyalty; and to satisfy still further the English monarch, he made a solemn resignation of the crown into his hands, when the whole kingdom shortly after followed his example. Edward, thus master of Scotland, adopted every precaution in order to render his title permanent, and abolish such distinctions as might preserve the nation in its former independence. For that purpose, all records and monuments of antiquity, which tended to inspire the Scotch with a spirit of national pride, were destroyed; and the holy stone, which vulgar tradition had consecrated as the same that had served Jacob for a pillow, and on which their ancient monarchs had uniformly been crowned, was conveyed to England. To that object, tradition had attached the symbol of their government, as wheresoever it was placed, they conceived their command must follow. The great seal of Baliol was broken, and the monarch himself conducted a captive to London, and

confined in the Tower; two years subsequent, he regained his freedom and was banished to France, where he died in a private station, without making any further attempts upon the Scottish throne; perhaps more happy in such privacy than if he had been gratified by the pursuits of ambition.

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The following curious account of the Field of Gold cloth, is extracted from a rare work, entitled "Honour, Military and Civil, &c." 1602.; the stile of which we have modernized to render it more intelligible to the reader:—


Henry the Eighth and Francis the First of France. These most excellent princes having occasion to appoint a conference, named a meeting in Picardy, and as the time approached, the King of England arrived at Calais, from whence he proceeded to Guines; the French monarch also journeyed to Ardres, between which towns the place of meeting was appointed.

The two Kings most splendidly caparisoned, there met each other, accompanied by such magnificence as had not been witnessed in Christendom for an hundred years.

At the place of meeting two pavilions were erected, one for the French King, the other for the King of England; and after those potentates had embraced each other, they went into one of the pavilions. The French King was accompanied by his Lord Admiral Bonivett, his Chancellor, and some few counsellors; and the King of England had with him, the Cardinal of York, and the Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk. After having sat in council they returned to their pavilions, and prepared for the entertainments which were to be given. A tilt or tournament was then ordered, which, with other triumphal exercises continued about fifteen days.

The King of England then invited the French King and feasted him in his pavilion, being a wooden building containing four very spacious apartments, magnificently furnished; the frame work of which had been constructed in England, and after the feast was taken down and returned.

The French King in return feasted the King of England, when a cloth of state was hung up of immense size,



and extraordinary magnificence. The ropes belonging to that pavilion being wove of yellow silk and gold intermingled.

At the period when the monarchs were to sit down to the banquet, so great a storm of wind arose, that they feared the pavilion would not stand, and removed to the spot whereon the fortress stands, which bears the name of that banquet.

The apparel, jewels, and pompous ornaments, used by the princes, lords, and gentlemen in waiting on those Kings, can scarcely be estimated; for as my author says, "some carried on their backs the value of whole forests, others the weight of ten thousand sheep, and some the worth of a great Lordship."

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JUNE THE FIFTH.

New Ross attacked by the Irish Rebels, 1798.

The insurgents of Wexford attacked the forces, commanded by General Johnson, at New Ross, with the greatest fury, when the action continued for several hours with various success, the rebels having at one time so far prevailed as to gain considerable head, while they had captured three pieces of cannon and pressed the town of New Ross so vigorously as to fire it in several places. At length, however, the valour and discipline of the regular forces prevailed over the impetuous desperation of the enemy, and by the close of day the insurgents were completely repulsed, with the loss of three thousand left dead upon the field. The cannon were also retaken, together with several unmounted ship guns which had been conveyed to the spot by the enemy. The King's forces were very roughly handled in that conflict, and among the officers killed was Lord Mountjoy, Colonel of the County of Dublin Militia.

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*Battle of Stoke, and Capture of Lambert Simnel, 1487.*

The Earl of Kildare having been Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Henry the Seventh confirmed him in his office, during which Lambert Simnel arrived in that country, and laying claim to the crown, was first anointed at Dublin. On receiving this news, the Irish rebels threw down their arms, when Kildare and the chief persons in the kingdom came over messengers to the King to mediate in their behalf, and obtained their pardon. Simnel having landed in England, marched against the royal army, when the opposing forces encountered each other at Stoke, in the county of Nottingham, where a battle was fought more sanguinary and obstinate than could have been expected from the great inequality of the numbers engaged. Victory, however, at length declared in favour of Henry the Seventh, which proved decisive, Lord Lincoln falling on the field of battle, and the Lord Lovel being never after heard of is supposed to have shared a similar fate. Lambert Simnel, with Simon, his tutor, was made prisoner, four thousand of the common soldiers having perished in the conflict. As Simon was an ecclesiastic, he could not be tried by the civil power, and was therefore only doomed to close confinement. Simnel being too contemptible to excite Henry's fears or resentment, received the royal pardon, and was installed a scullion boy of the King's kitchen, from which he was raised to the rank of falconer, and in that mean employment terminated his existence.



## JUNE THE SEVENTH.

*The Royal Exchange founded by Sir Thomas Gresham, 1566.—Petition of Right granted by Charles the First, 1628.*

The foundation stone of that noble structure the Royal Exchange of London was laid by Sir Thomas Gresham.

The two Houses of Parliament addressed King Charles the First in regard to a more explicit answer respecting their Petition of Right, upon which his Majesty sent the satisfactory answer referred to at page 13,—“*Soit fait comme il est désiré.*”

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#### JUNE THE EIGHTH.

*Death of Hardicanute, 1041.—King John visited Dublin, 1310.—Death of Edward the Black Prince, 1376.*

Hardicanute, son of Canute and Queen Emma, succeeded to Harold, his supplanter, whose corpse he caused to be dug up and thrown into the Thames. He was, however, kind to the dowager Queen and her son Edward, but a great epicure, and died from the effects of over feasting at a wedding. He reigned but two years and was buried at Winchester, and with this prince ended the tyranny of the Danes in England, who for above two hundred years had grievously oppressed the realm, when the Saxon line being again enthroned, the Danes who remained, mingled with the English, and thus constituted one and the same population.

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The Irish being subdued, and having adopted the English laws, King John, for the first time, visited Dublin this day, where he received the homage and fealty of twenty Irish princes.

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The event which of all others tended to cast a gloom over the latter part of the splendid reign of Edward the Third, was the death of Edward the Black Prince, whose constitution shewed but too manifestly the symptoms of a speedy dissolution. That valiant and accomplished Knight died in the forty-sixth year of his age, leaving behind him a character unsullied by a single blemish, and a degree of sorrow prevailed among the English people which time could scarcely alleviate. His affability, clemency, and liberal disposition, have

been celebrated by different historians, and though born in an age when military virtues alone were held in esteem, he cultivated the arts of peace, and seemed ever most happy in deserving, rather than attaining praise.

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JUNE THE NINTH.

Battle of Naseby, 1645.—The Irish Insurgents of Wicklow defeated, 1798.

This well disputed battle, which decided the fate of Charles the First, was fought at Naseby, a village in Northamptonshire. The main body of the royalist army was commanded by Lord Astley, Prince Rupert led the right wing, Sir Marmaduke Langdale the left, and the King himself headed the body of reserve. On the opposite side, Fairfax and Skippon commanded the main body; Cromwell led on the right wing, and Ireton, his son-in-law, the left. Prince Rupert attacked the latter corps, with his usual impetuosity and success, breaking and pursuing the same as far as the village; but he lost time in attempting to make himself master of their artillery. Cromwell, in the mean time, was equally successful on his side, and broke through the enemy's horse, after a very obstinate resistance.

While those commanders were thus engaged, the infantry on both sides maintained the conflict with equal ardour, but in spite of the efforts of Fairfax and Skippon, their battalions began to give way. It was at this critical juncture, Cromwell returned with his victorious forces, and charged the King's infantry in flank, with such vigour, that a total rout began to ensue. By this time, Prince Rupert had joined the King and the small body of reserve, but his troops, though victorious, could not be brought to a second charge.

Those forces, at all times licentious and ungovernable, were then intimidated, as the Parliamentarians had recovered from their first shock, and stood ready, in order of battle, to receive them. The King was desirous of

charging, at the head of his reserve, but the Earl of Carnworth, who rode at his Majesty's side, seized the bridle of his horse, and turning the animal round, said, with a loud oath, "will you go upon your death in an instant?" The troops, on witnessing that motion, wheeled to the right, and rode off in such confusion, that they could not be rallied again during the rest of the day. Charles, perceiving the battle was wholly lost, was obliged to abandon the field to his enemies, who took all his cannon, baggage, and above five thousand prisoners.

That fatal blow the royalists never recovered; their army was dispersed, and the conquerors made as many captures as they thought proper. Among other spoils taken on this occasion, was the King's cabinet of letters containing all his private correspondence with the Queen, those documents being shortly after published by command of the parliament, which took a vulgar and brutal pleasure in ridiculing tender effusions, which had never been drawn up to meet the public eye.

The Irish rebels, in the county of Wicklow, made a formidable attack upon the position of General Needham, at Arklow, but after a long and severe action they were repulsed with considerable loss. On the same day, the insurgents of Armagh were dispersed in various directions, and many laid down their arms. Owing to the influence of a Mr. M'Claverty, whom they had captured, fifteen hundred of the rebels also broke their pikes, and returned to their allegiance.

JUNE THE TENTH.

Death of King George the First, 1727.

George the First, King of Great Britain, Elector of Brunswick Lunenberg, &c. died at Osnaburgh, in Germany, on the night between the tenth and eleventh of June, aged sixty-seven years, and thirteen days. His Majesty landed at Vaert, in Holland, on the seventh

ingly set sail for Otaheite. After performing a voyage round the world, in the course of which many important and valuable discoveries were effected, they returned in safety, having acquired the well merited applause of the English government, and the nation at large.

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**JUNE THE THIRTIETH.**

*Engagement entered into by the Peers at York, 1642.*

As the major part of the English nobility felt disgusted on witnessing the proceedings of Parliament, in violation of the rights of their monarch, and in defiance of the constitution of England, forty-six peers and high officers of the state, entered into a solemn engagement at York on this day, swearing not to submit to the orders of the two Houses of Parliament, but defend with their lives and fortunes his Majesty's person, crown, and dignity. Charles the First then issued a commission of array, appointing the Earl of Lindsay his general, and then wrote a letter to the Lord Mayor of London, commanding him to publish his order, and forbidding the citizens to lend money to Parliament; which communication occasioned the Commons to publish a declaration shewing the necessity they were under of arming for their defence. Such having been the measures that immediately preceded the breaking out of the civil war.

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JUNE THE FOURTEENTH.

Death of Jack Cade, 1450.—Condemnations of Prynne, Burton, and Bastwick, 1637.—The Rye House Plot, 1683.

The citizens of London soon after opened their gates to the victor; and Jack Cade for some time maintained great order and discipline among his followers. He always led them forth to the field during the night-time, and published severe edicts against plunder and violence of every description.

On the following day being informed that the treasurer, Lord Say, was in the city, he caused that noble-

man to be apprehended and beheaded without any form of trial; and in the evening returned to the Borough of Southwark. In this manner Cade for some days continued the practice of entering the city in the morning and quitting it at night; but at length, being unable to keep his followers within bounds, the citizens resolved to shut their gates against him. Cade in consequence endeavoured to force his way, when a battle ensued between the rebels and citizens, which lasted all day, and was not discontinued until night put an end to the engagement. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chancellor, who had taken refuge in the Tower, being informed of the situation of affairs, found means to draw up, that same night, an act of amnesty, which was privately dispersed among the rebels, and produced the desired effect. Cade therefore saw himself in the morning abandoned by most of his followers, and retreating to Rochester, was obliged to fly alone into the wolds of Kent, where a price being set upon his head, by proclamation, he was discovered and slain by one Alexander Eden, who, in recompence for that service, was made governor of Dover Castle.

William Prynne, a disaffected barrister, Henry Burton, bachelor of divinity, and Dr. Bastwick, a physician, neither of them particularly eminent in their professions, but violent incendiaries, were convicted in the Star-Chamber of having written and published various seditious libels, and sentenced for the same to stand in the pillory, lose their ears, pay a fine of five thousand pounds each, and suffer imprisonment during their natural lives. When the Parliamentarians subsequently triumphed over the King, those individuals were as much extolled by the Levellers, as they had been contemned by the Royalists, and were in consequence honoured by the designation of *Confessors of the Good Old Cause*.

The Earl of Shaftsbury having fled for safety to Amsterdam, which in some measure retarded the views of the other conspirators but by no means suppressed them, a

council of six was therefore convened, consisting of Monmouth, Russel, Essex, Howard, Algernon Sidney, and John Hampden, grandson of the great man of that name. Those personages corresponded with Argyle and the dissatisfied in Scotland, resolving to prosecute the scheme of an insurrection, though widely differing in principles from each other. Monmouth aspired to the crown; Russel and Hampden proposed that the duke of York should be excluded from the succession, and the national grievances redressed; Sidney was for restoring the Republic, Essex joining in the same wish; while Lord Howard, a very abandoned character and possessing no principles, sought to embroil the nation in order to gratify his private interest during the confusion.

Such were the leaders and motives of this conspiracy, which had subordinate actors, who frequently met and carried on projects wholly unknown to Monmouth and his council. Among the latter class was Colonel Ramsey, an old republican officer, with Lieutenant-Colonel Walcot; Goodenough, under sheriff of London, a zealous party man; Ferguson, an independent minister, with several attorneys, tradesmen, and merchants of London. Ramsey and Ferguson, however, were the only persons who had access to the leaders of the plot; and they were the individuals who adopted the most desperate resolutions. It was by them proposed that Charles the Second should be assassinated in his way to Newmarket; Rumbal, one of the party, possessed a farm upon that road, called the Rye-house, and from that circumstance the conspiracy was denominated the Rye House Plot. They deliberated upon a scheme of stopping the royal carriage by overturning a cart on the high way at the spot in question, and in the bustle shooting his Majesty through the adjoining hedges. It so happened, however, that the mansion at Newmarket in which Charles resided accidentally took fire, so that he was compelled to leave the town eight days sooner than had been expected, to which circumstance his escape may be ascribed.

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**JUNE THE FIFTEENTH.**

*Magna Charta signed by King John, 1215.—The two Houses of Parliament took the League and Covenant, 1643.*

The spot appointed for King John's Commissioners to meet the Barons was at a place called Runimede, between Staines and Windsor, still venerated by posterity as the spot where the standard of English freedom was first erected. There the Barons appeared, accompanied by a vast concourse of knights and warriors on this 15th day of June, while those on the King's part soon after followed, both sides being encamped and armed like open enemies. The debates between power and precedent are generally but of short duration; the Barons were resolved to carry their point, and therefore admitted of no abatement, and the King's agents being for the most part in their interests few debates ensued. After some days John, with a facility rather suspicious, signed and sealed the grand charter required at his hands, the clauses of which continue in force to the present day, constituting the ever memorable bulwark of England's rational liberty, now denominated **MAGNA CHARTA**. This famous document either granted or secured very important privileges to those orders of the kingdom that were already possessed of freedom; namely, to the Clergy, to the Barons, and Gentlemen; as for the lower classes, constituting the majority of the population, they were then held as slaves, and it was therefore long before they were made participators of that loyal protection.

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The two Houses of Parliament took the solemn League and Covenant on this day, and the city of London shortly after.

This famous Covenant originated in Scotland, the purport of which was to support and defend anti-royalist opinions and establish new doctrines by overthrowing the state. To oppose those measures, the Court determined to establish the Liturgy of the Church of England, when both sides being obstinate in their opinions,

the result was the commencement of those sanguinary measures in Scotland, which had till then only been talked of in England.

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JUNE THE SIXTEENTH.

Battle of Ligny, 1815.

Bonaparte having for three successive days attacked the allies at Charleroi and Ligny with the intent of separating the Prussian and English armies, after a most obstinate and sanguinary conflict on this 16th June, the former were compelled to retire, on which memorable occasion the Duke of Brunswick fell.

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JUNE THE SEVENTEENTH.

*Goring defeated at Taunton, 1645.—Battle of Bunker's Hill, 1775.*

Lord Fairfax marched to relieve Taunton, which place had been for some time vigorously besieged by the royal forces commanded by Goring. The latter being attacked by the Parliamentarians, was, after an obstinate conflict, compelled to raise the siege of Taunton, having lost nineteen hundred men in killed and prisoners, with two thousand horse.

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A most sanguinary battle was fought between the English and Americans, on which occasion the British drove their adversaries from Bunker's-hill with great slaughter, from which place this famous conflict derived its name.

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JUNE THE EIGHTEENTH.

*Charles the First crowned at Holyrood House, 1693.  
—Battle of Chalgrave Field, 1643.—Battle of Waterloo, 1815.*

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King Charles the first set out for Scotland on the 13th of May, having in his suite Dr. Laud, Bishop of London,

&c. where he arrived in safety at Edinburgh on the 15th of June, and three days after was inaugurated with all due solemnity at Holyrood palace, when he received the crown at the hands of Dr. Spotswood, Archbishop of Saint Andrews.

Prince Rupert having made an incursion to within about two miles from the encampment of the Republicans, obtained a valuable booty, which the Parliamentarians, with Hampden at their head, strove to regain, who overtook the Royalists in Chalgrave field. As that staunch adherent for the cause of liberty was uniformly foremost in entering the thickest of the conflict, he there received a brace of bullets in his shoulder, at the same moment, which fractured the bone. Hampden was in consequence conveyed from the field of battle followed by the regrets of his soldiers, as little hopes were entertained of his recovery.

This day was fought the sanguinary and decisive battle of Waterloo, which terminated the imperial reign and dynasty of Napoleon Bonaparte. The Emperor, with all his forces, attacked the Duke of Wellington at eleven o'clock, but was constantly repulsed with horrible carnage. Towards the close of this eventful day the Prussians, under Prince Blucher, came up and occupied a position on the flank of the enemy, where the British resolutely advanced and drove the French from the field of battle in the greatest disorder, who abandoned 150 cannons, with the whole *materiel* of their army. The enemy's loss at Waterloo was computed as amounting to fifty thousand men; that of the English fifteen thousand, while the Prussians, in the several affairs of the 15th, 16th, and this day, left twenty thousand dead upon the field.

JUNE THE NINETEENTH.

Tyrone defeated Sir Henry Bagnall, 1599.
The Irish rebel Tyrone marched to encounter Sir Henry

Bagnall, who commanded the troops of Elizabeth; on which occasion, the latter were defeated, and Sir Henry slain. The result of that victory was the whole province of Munster declaring for Tyrone, who then invited the Spaniards to make a descent into that kingdom. Queen Elizabeth then appointed the Earl of Essex Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who repaired thither with an army of twenty thousand men to reduce Tyrone, but he displayed little skill in managing the war, and made a truce with the rebels, for which the Queen reproved the Earl, who returned to England in order to justify his proceedings; for which rash step he was confined to his house, and forced to submit.



JUNE THE TWENTIETH.

The First House of Commons instituted, 1265.

Louis, King of France, through the intercession of Eleanor, Queen of Henry the Third of England, who had sought refuge at the French court, actually prepared to reinstate the English monarch on his throne, who had been dispossessed of his authority by the discontented barons, at the head of whom was the Earl of Leicester. The Pope, on that occasion, was not sparing in his ecclesiastical censures, and there were many foreign potentates who pitied the privations of Henry, and secretly wished the downfall of Leicester. The wretched state to which England was in consequence reduced, was, however, productive of the ultimate happiness of posterity; for Leicester, in order to strengthen his ill-acquired preponderance in the state, was compelled to have recourse to an aid, which, until that period, had been entirely unknown in England; viz. that of the body of the people. He therefore summoned a parliament on the 20th of June, in which, independent of the Barons of his own party, and many church dignitaries who were not immediate tenants of the crown, he commanded returns to be made of two knights from every shire, as well as deputies from the boroughs, who

had hitherto been esteemed as too insignificant to have a voice in the legislation of the English realm.

**JUNE THE TWENTY-FIRST.**

Death of Edward the Third, 1377.—Corsica accepted a Constitution from England, 1794.—Battle of Vinegar Hill, 1798.—Battle of Vittoria, 1813.

King Edward the Third was most sensibly affected by the loss of his son the Black Prince, and tried every art to amuse his grief. He had banished his concubine, Alice Pierce, some time before from his presence, but again took her in hope of finding some consolation in her company. He removed himself entirely from the duties of the state, and left the kingdom to be plundered by a set of rapacious ministers. This monarch did not survive the consequences of his bad conduct, but died about a year after the prince at Sheen, in Surrey, now Richmond, deserted by all his courtiers, even those who had grown rich by his bounty. He expired in the sixty-fifth year of his age, and the fifty-first of his reign; a prince more admired than loved by his subjects, and more an object of their applause than their sorrow.

The Corsicans accepted a new constitution, and acknowledged the King of Great Britain as monarch of that Island.

The rebel camp at Vinegar Hill, in the county of Wexford, was attacked in all directions by a formidable army, under the command of General Lake, and carried after an obstinate resistance of an hour and a half. The loss of the insurgents on that occasion was very great, and they left behind them on the field of battle thirteen pieces of cannon, including three which they had taken some time before from his Majesty's forces.

The French army, commanded by King Joseph Bonaparte, having Marshal Jourdan to officiate as Major General of the forces, took up a position on the night of

the 19th of June, in front of Vittoria; its left rested on the heights which end at Puebla d'Arlanzon, extending from thence along the Valley of Zadora, in front of the village of Arunez. They occupied with the right of the centre a height which commanded the Valley of Zadora, and the right of their army was stationed near Vittoria, to defend the passages of the river Zadora, in the neighbourhood of that city. They had also a reserve in the rear of their left, at the village of Gomecha. The nature of the country through which the army had passed since reaching the Ebro, had necessarily extended the columns of the allies; and the Marquis of Wellington halted on the 20th of June, in order to close them, moving the left to Margina, where it was most likely it would be necessary. The Marquis in his despatch, dated Salvatierra, on the 22nd of June, 1813, says, "I reconnoitered the enemy's position on the 20th with a view to the attack being made on the following morning if they should still remain."

"We accordingly attacked the French on the 21st, and I am happy to inform your Lordship, that the allied army, under my command, gained a complete victory, having driven them from all their positions, taken one hundred and fifty-one pieces of cannon, four hundred and fifteen waggons of ammunition, all their baggage, provisions, cattle, treasure, and a considerable number of prisoners!"

Amidst the crowd of fugitives, King Joseph had a very narrow escape. He was soon recognised, and closely pursued by a detachment of cavalry led by the Marquis of Worcester. Captain Wyndham, who was engaged in the pursuit, fired two pistol shots at the carriage in which Joseph was seated; but the latter having succeeded in passing a milldam, where the French had contrived to obstruct the pursuit, he mounted his horse, and escaped at full gallop, leaving all his personal effects behind him. So much, indeed, were the French concerned for their personal safety, that even general Jourdan escaped with the loss of his Marshal's baton, which Captain Freemantle, who brought

the Marquis of Wellington's dispatches, was directed to present to the Prince Regent in London.

The loss of the French at Vittoria has been variously stated, but it appears from the most authentic accounts, that it amounted to about twelve thousand men. Indeed, so complete was the rout of the enemy, that all the women belonging to their army were taken prisoners, but immediately restored to freedom by the Marquis of Wellington.



JUNE THE TWENTY-SECOND.

Martyrdom of St. Alban, 287.—Bishop Fisher beheaded, 1535.—Death of the Duke of Marlborough, 1722.

Alban, from whom St. Alban's, in Hertfordshire, received its name, was the first British martyr. The venerable Bede assures us, that when he suffered, the executioner suddenly became a convert to Christianity, and intreated permission to die for Alban, or with him. Obtaining the latter request, they were both beheaded by a soldier, who voluntarily undertook the task of executioner. This happened on the 24th of June, A. D. 287, at Verulam, now St. Alban's, in Hertfordshire; where subsequently a magnificent church was erected to his memory about the time of Constantine the Great. This edifice being destroyed in the Saxon wars was rebuilt by Offa, king of Mercia, and a monastery erected adjoining the same; some remains of which are still visible. the church being a most noble remnant of Gothic architecture.

Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, was a prelate eminent for his learning and morals, but so firmly attached to ancient opinions, that he was thrown into prison and deprived of his ecclesiastical revenues; so that he had scarce even rags to cover him in his severe confinement. He was soon after indicted for denying the King's supremacy, and condemned and beheaded on Tower-hill. The venerable age of this virtuous ecclesiastic, however

bigoted his principles might be, would have rescued his grey hairs from the block had any other prince than the relentless and sanguinary Henry the Eighth swayed the English sceptre.

About four o'clock on the morning of this day died at Windsor John Churchill, Duke and Earl of Marlborough, Marquis of Blandford, Lord Churchill of Sandridge, in the county of Hertford, Baron of Aymouth, in Scotland, and Prince of the Holy Roman Empire. He was one of the most successful generals that ever appeared in the world, and had amassed the greatest estate of any subject in the three kingdoms. What advantages his country reaped by his splendid victories, and what returns of gratitude he made to the several princes who advanced him, is transmitted to posterity in the most advantageous light by those biographers who afterwards attempted his history.

JUNE THE TWENTY-THIRD.

The Jesuit Garnet executed, 1606.

On the arrest of Guido Fawkes, Catesby, Percy, and the other conspirators, who were in London, fled with all speed to Warwickshire, where Sir Everard Digby relying on the success of the plot, was already in arms in order to seize the person of the Princess Elizabeth. But the country soon began to take the alarm; and wherever the conspirators turned, they found a superior force ready to oppose them. In that exigency, beset on all sides, they resolved, to about the number of eighty persons, to fly no farther, but make a stand at a house in Warwickshire, in order to defend the same to the last, and sell their lives as dearly as possible. Even that miserable consolation was however denied them; for a spark of fire happening to fall among some gunpowder, that was laid to dry, the whole exploded, and so maimed the principal conspirators, that the survivors resolved to open the gate, and sally out against the mul-

titude that surrounded the mansion. Some were instantly cut to pieces; Catesby, Percy, and Winter, standing back to back, fought long and desperately, till in the end, the two first fell covered with wounds, when Winter was taken alive. Those that survived the slaughter were tried and convicted, several of whom fell by the hands of the executioner, and others experienced the King's mercy. The Jesuits, Garnet and Oldcorn, who were privy to the plot, suffered afterwards, the former on this day, and notwithstanding the atrociousness of their treason, Garnet was considered by his party as a martyr, and miracles were said to have been wrought by his blood.

Such was the end of a conspiracy that brought ruin on its contrivers, and utterly supplanted that religion it was intended to establish. It is, notwithstanding, remarkable, that previous to that audacious attempt, the conspirators had always borne a fair reputation; Catesby was loved by all his acquaintance, and Digby as highly respected, both for his honour and integrity, as any man in the nation. However, such are the deeds which superstition and early prejudice will urge men to perpetrate whose minds were naturally well formed, until a fatal impression rendered them criminal.



JUNE THE TWENTY-FOURTH.



Henry the Eighth crowned, 1509.—Supremacy of Queen Elizabeth confirmed, 1559.—Death of John Hampden, 1643.

Henry the Eighth having solemnised his marriage with Princess Catherine of Arragon, his deceased brother Arthur's widow, on the third of June, was on the present day crowned with her at Westminster.

All the acts for establishing the Catholic religion which had been passed during the reign of Queen Mary, were abrogated by her successor Elizabeth, and the supremacy of the latter re-enacted.

the dignity of Protector, in order to preserve the peace of the nation ; which, it must be owned, he effected with equal conduct, moderation, and success. The government of the kingdom he on that occasion adjusted in the following manner :—A council was appointed, the members of which were not to exceed twenty-one, nor be composed of more than thirteen individuals. They were to enjoy their offices for life, or during good behaviour ; and in case of a vacancy occurring, the remaining members were empowered to nominate three, of whom the Protector had the right to choose one. Cromwell was appointed supreme magistrate of the Commonwealth, with the same powers as had been enjoyed by the king. The power of the sword was vested in the Protector, jointly with Parliament when sitting, or the council of state at intervals. He was obliged to summon a parliament every three years, and allow it to sit for five months without adjournment. A standing army was established, consisting of twenty thousand foot, and ten thousand horse, and funds were assigned for its support. The Protector was to enjoy the office during life ; and on his death that post was immediately to be supplied by the council. Of all those clauses, the standing army was sufficient for Cromwell's purpose ; for while possessed of that instrument, he was enabled to mould the rest of the constitution to his pleasure, at any time.

The rebels, in the county of Kilkenny, were vigorously attacked by the army, under the command of Sir Charles Asgill, in their position on Kilconnel Hill, and defeated with the loss of one thousand men killed, including their chief, Father Murphy, ten pieces of cannon, two swivels, their colours, and quantities of ammunition, arms and cattle. The remainder of the insurgents were pursued into the county of Wexford, where they dispersed in different directions, and from this time the rebels in that quarter attempted no farther resistance to the King's troops,



JUNE THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.*Order for the Trials of Lords Kilmarnock, Cromartie, and Balmerino.*

The House of Lords received the report from the committee appointed to search precedents for trial of criminal peers, with the several resolutions, when it was ordered that an address be presented to his Majesty, desiring that he would be pleased to appoint a lord high steward, to continue during the trials of the Earls of Kilmarnock, Cromartie, and Lord Balmerino, and that a place might be prepared in Westminster-hall for the said trials; that the said lords have notice to prepare for the same upon the 28th of July; that the Lord Chancellor do send circular letters (giving twenty days notice) to all peers in town and country to attend in their robes, and that none be excused their attendance, unless prevented by sickness or other bodily infirmities. The trials were ordered to be in Westminster-hall because the House of Peers would have been too close. As the proceedings were by indictment and not impeachment, no scaffolding was ordered for the Commons.

JUNE THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.*King John landed in Ireland, 1210.—Coronation of Edward IV. 1461.*

The crowns of England and Ireland having been united on the demise of Richard the First, without issue, in the person of King John, that monarch in the twelfth year of his reign over England, again went to Ireland, where he landed June 28, 1210; when, according to Matthew Paris, he repaired to Dublin.

Edward the Fourth after being elected by the chief men of the kingdom at London, in the beginning of March repaired to York, when he caused the head of his father to be taken down from the walls, where it had been placed by order of Queen Margaret, and had that of the Duke of Devonshire substituted in its stead.

Edward then returned to London, and was crowned at Westminster with all the solemnity used on such occasions.

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**JUNE THE TWENTY-NINTH.**

*Death of King Offa, 794.*

Offa, eleventh king of the Mercians, and sixteenth monarch in England, was born lame, deaf, and blind, which continued till he arrived at manhood, when the Mercian nobles received him for their king, and he began his reign with a greater prospect of glory than any of his predecessors. He took up arms against the Kentishmen, slew their monarch at Ottisford, and conquered that kingdom. He then made great havoc beyond the Humber, from whence returning triumphant, he marched against the West Saxons. Offa caused a deep trench to be dug from Bristol to Great Basingwark, in Flintshire, in order to designate the boundary of the Britons, who had fixed their abode in Wales, A. D. 794: that labour the Welsh endeavoured to destroy, but were repulsed with great loss. The Ledger-book of St. Alban states, that Offa first ordained the sounding of trumpets before the kings of England, to denote his appearance, and ensure respect. He repulsed the Danes to their great loss; admitted his son Egfrýd a partner in his sovereignty, and out of devotion paid a visit to Rome, where he made his kingdom subject to a tribute, then called Peter's Pence, and procured the canonization of St. Alban. On his return Offa built the famous monastery of St. Alban's, opposite Verulanium, in Hertfordshire, A. D. 793. This great prince died at Offley, June 29th, 794, in the 39th year of his reign, and was buried at Bedford, in a chapel since swallowed up by the river Ouse. He had issue by his queen, one son and three daughters.

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JUNE THE THIRTIETH.

Cromwell again inaugurated in his office of Lord Protector, 1657.—Capture of Tobago, 1803.

The second inauguration of Oliver Cromwell, as Lord

Protector of England, took place in Westminster Hall, when the ceremony was performed with great pomp. In the middle was placed a chair of state, raised on steps, and covered with a rich cloth, in front of which was a table and chair for the Speaker, and on either side places for the members. His highness was attended by the Earl of Warwick, bearing the sword, and the Speaker delivered him a robe of purple velvet, lined with ermine, a Bible being also presented, richly gilt and embossed: his sword was afterwards handed, then a sceptre of massy gold, and lastly the oath administered. The Protector seated, holding the sceptre, had on his right the French ambassador, to the left the envoy of the United Provinces, near him his son Richard and the officers of the council and state; after which, the herald proclaimed aloud his highness's title. On the conclusion of the ceremony, the Protector went in state to Westminster Hall Gate, where he entered his carriage, and on his return signed several bills.

The island of Tobago, in the West Indies, surrendered to the British arms.

JULY THE FIRST.

Death of Edgar, 975.—Battle of the Boyne, 1690.—Engagement between the Jason and La Pique Frigates, 1798.

Edgar, surnamed the Peaceable, proved the greatest but most licentious of the Saxon monarchs who ruled in England. He recalled Dunstan from banishment, advanced him to the see of Canterbury, and at the instigation of that rigid but domineering prelate, dispossessed all married churchmen of their benefices. He changed into a tribute of wolves' heads the sum that had been paid by the Welsh in gold, silver, and cattle, since the days of Ethelstan, which rendered that people so active and expert in wolf hunting, that in a few years the kingdom was cleared of those destructive beasts. It is reported by some historians, that Edgar had the honour of being rowed over the river

Dee to Chester by eight tributary princes. After a reign of sixteen years, he died July 1st and was buried at Glastonbury.

This day the famous battle was fought between James the Second and King William on the banks of the Boyne, from which stream it received its name. The Irish foot on that occasion would not stand the charge, and by that means the latter prince gained the victory. The French and Swiss, however, made an orderly retreat, and James retired to Dublin, when, feeling a conviction that no reliance could be placed upon the Irish forces in their own country, he took shipping at Waterford for France. At the conflict of the Boyne, the Duke of Schomberg was killed by an accidental shot, as it was supposed from his own ranks, the bullet entering his neck; and Dr. Walker who had so gallantly defended Londonderry, also fell in this engagement. The loss sustained by James was 1500 men, and among the persons of note on his side who died, were Lords Dougan and Carlingford, Sir Neal O'Neal, and the Marquis D'Hocquincourt, and among the numerous captured was lieutenant-general Hamilton. Young Schomberg behaved with great gallantry, and avenged the death of the Duke his father, who when killed was eighty-two years of age.

The English loss amounted to 500 men, King William having narrowly escaped the fate of Schomberg, as a cannon-ball tore away part of his boot, and broke a horse's leg near him. Every writer concurs in giving that prince the highest praise for conduct, courage, resolution, and presence of mind, manifested throughout this gallant conflict, during the whole of which, James continued on an eminence, an inactive spectator of the battle.

The La Seine French frigate of 42 guns was captured by the Jason frigate, after a severe action with that ship, and La Pique, the latter being ran ashore on the French coast, and wrecked. La Seine suffered considerably in the action, her loss in men having amounted to 170 killed and 100 wounded; that of his majesty's ship was nine men

killed, including the second lieutenant of the Jason, and twenty wounded.

JULY THE SECOND.

Battle of Marston Moor, 1644.—Union with Ireland, 1800.

The battle of Marston Moor was the commencement of King Charles's misfortunes and disgrace. The Scotch and Parliamentary armies had formed a junction, and were besieging York, when Prince Rupert, joined by the Marquis of Newcastle, determined to raise the siege. Both sides drew up on Marston Moor, to the number of fifty thousand men, and the victory seemed long undecided between them. Rupert, who commanded the right wing of the royalists, was opposed by Oliver Cromwell, who then first came into notice, at the head of a body of troops, whom he had taken care to levy and discipline. Cromwell was victorious, driving his opponents off the field, who followed the vanquished, and then returned to brave a second engagement, and acquire another victory. On that occasion, the prince's whole train of artillery was taken; and it may with truth be said, the royalists never after recovered that fatal blow.

The bill having passed the English legislature, for uniting the Parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland, that momentous document, which had given rise to so many debates in both countries, received the royal assent this day.

JULY THE THIRD.

General Howe landed at Staten Island, 1776.—Saint Lucia was captured by Abercrombie, 1796.—Capitulation of Paris, 1815.

The necessary arrangements being made for the attack, General Howe landed his forces at Staten Island, which soon after fell under the dominion of the British arms.

Despatches were received from lieutenant-general Sir Ralph Abercrombie, announcing the important intelligence that Morue Fortuna, in St. Lucia, had surrendered by capitulation on the 25th of May, which we have previously mentioned on that day, and the whole of the island was then in possession of the forces of his British Majesty. The number of English killed and wounded during the siege was estimated at 500 men.

After the sanguinary struggle at Waterloo, which terminated in favour of the English arms, the Duke of Wellington and Marshal Blucher having proceeded by forced marches upon Paris, that city capitulated on the present day.

JULY THE FOURTH.

Battle of Maida, 1806.

The battle of Maida, in Calabria, was fought between the British and the French forces, on which occasion Sir John Stewart, with five thousand men, defeated General Regnier, who commanded upwards of eight thousand troops.

JULY THE FIFTH.

The Star Chamber abolished, 1641.—The Parliament forces took York, 1644.—Battle of Sedgemoor, 1685.

The bill passed the Commons of England for the total abolition of the Star Chamber and High Commission Court, which had carried the royal prerogative to a pitch of power incompatible with the principles of the English constitution. Two days after, a poll-bill was also passed, the major part of the money arising from which was expended in open rebellion against Charles the First.

Prince Rupert having raised the siege of York, the battle of Marston Moor was fought, in which the Parliamentarians having been victorious, York opened its gates to the rebellious forces.

James the Second was not only alarmed at the invasion of the Duke of Monmouth, but still more on witnessing the success of an undertaking which had appeared so desperate in its origin. Six regiments of British troops were called over from Holland, and a body of regulars, amounting to three thousand men, was sent under the command of the Earls of Feversham and Churchill to check the progress of the rebels. Those forces posted themselves at Sedgemoor, a village contiguous to Bridgewater, who were joined by the militia of the county in considerable numbers. At the spot in question, Monmouth resolved, by one desperate effort, either to lose his life, or possess himself of the kingdom, and the negligent dispositions taken by Feversham in a great measure prompted him to risk the attack, while his faithful adherents eminently displayed what can be effected by courage and principle, when opposed to well-disciplined and superior numbers. The royal infantry was driven from the field, and the Duke was on the point of gaining a complete victory, when Monmouth's misconduct and the cowardice of Lord Gray, who commanded the horse, ruined every thing. The latter nobleman fled at the first onset, when the rebels being charged in flank gave way, after three hours intrepid contest, leaving some hundreds killed, while a thousand more perished during the pursuit, in which manner terminated an enterprise, rashly began, and more feebly executed.

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**JULY THE SIXTH.**

*Death of Henry the Second, 1189.—Coronation of Richard the Third, 1483.—Sir Thomas More decapitated, 1535.—Death of Edward the Sixth, 1553.—Triconderago taken, 1777.—Capture of Porte Ferrajo, 1798.*

Henry the Second had long borne an infirm state of body with calm resignation; he had witnessed his children rebel without much emotion; he had seen his own son his conqueror, himself bereft of his power, reduced to the condition of a fugitive, and almost suppliant in his old

age; all which he endured with tranquillity of temper; but, when he beheld that child, whose interest always lay nearest his heart, among those who were in open rebellion against him, he could no longer contain his indignation; when breaking out in expressions of the utmost despair, he cursed the day in which he had received his miserable existence, and bestowed on his ungrateful children a malediction which he never after could be prevailed upon to retract. The more Henry's heart had been disposed to friendship and affection, the more he resented this barbarous return; and now not having one place in his breast where he could look for comfort or pity, for refuge from his conflicting passions, he lost all his former vivacity. A lingering fever arising from a broken heart soon after terminated his life and miseries, and he died at the castle of Chinon, near Saumur.

His corpse was conveyed by his natural son Geoffrey, (who, of all his children, behaved with duty) to the nunnery of Fontevault; and next day, while it lay in the Abbey church, Richard chancing to enter, was struck with horror at the sight. On his approach, the blood was seen to gush out at the mouth and nostrils of the corpse, which, without doubt, was accidental, but the circumstance, owing to the superstitions of the times, was interpreted as the most dreadful malediction. Richard not able to endure the sight, exclaimed that he was his father's murderer; and expressed a strong, though late, sense of that undutiful conduct which had brought his parent to an untimely grave. Thus died Henry in the fifty-eighth year of his age, and the thirty-fifth of his reign; in the course of which he displayed all the abilities of a politician, the sagacity of a legislator, and the magnanimity of a hero. He was of a middle stature, and strong and well proportioned; his countenance lively and engaging; his conversation affable and entertaining; his elocution easy, persuasive, and ever at command. When he could enjoy leisure, he recreated himself either in learning, conversation, or reading, and cultivated his natural talents by study above any prince of his time.

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The coronation of Richard the third and Anne his Queen was solemnized at Westminster, on which occasion the King created seventeen Knights of the Bath. In the month of August following, this prince was again inaugurated at York, and his only son Edward created Prince of Wales.

Sir Thomas More is entitled to the greatest commendation, having been one of the revivers of ancient literature, and incontestably the finest writer of his age. He had for some time refused to act in subserviency to the capricious passions of the King, who nevertheless created him Lord Chancellor; but he resigned that high office rather than concur in the monarch's breach with the church of Rome.

The austerity of this great man's virtue and the sanctity of his manners, had in no wise encroached on the gentleness of his temper, as even amidst poverty and disgrace he preserved that natural gaiety which was inspired by conscious innocence. But on the present occasion, when doomed to confinement, no intreaties or arguments could prevail with him to utter an entire acknowledgement of the justice of the King's claims. One Rich, then solicitor-general, was sent to confer with him, in whose presence he was inveigled to say, that any question with regard to law which established that prerogative, was like a two-edged sword; if a person answered on one side, it would confound his soul, if on the other, it would destroy his body. Those words were sufficient for the base informer to hang an accusation upon, and as trials at that time were but mere formalities, the jury pronounced sentence against More, who had long expected his fate. His natural cheerfulness attended him to the last. When he was mounting the scaffold, he said to one near him, "Friend, help me up, and when I go down again, let me shift for myself." The executioner asking Sir Thomas forgiveness, he granted the request, adding; "You will never get credit by beheading me as my neck is so short." Then laying his head on the block, he bade the executioner stay till he had put aside his beard; "for," "said

he, "that has never committed treason against his Majesty."

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King Edward the Sixth surrendered up his pious soul at Greenwich, in his sixteenth year, and the seventh of his reign. He was buried at Westminster near the body of his grandfather Henry the Seventh, with great funeral pomp, attended by the unfeigned mournings of an affectionate people. Having mentioned the munificent foundations of this philanthropic prince on the day of his accession (p. 67), we shall proceed to delineate his person and mental acquirements. The physiognomy of Edward was regularly handsome, and his person remarkable for symmetry and beauty. He was in the habit of writing down the characters of all the leading Englishmen of his time; the judges, persons in office, their mode of living, and zeal for the reformed religion. He studied the business of the Mint, with the exchange and relative value of monies. He was an adept in the science of fortification; knew all the harbours of his dominions, as also those of Scotland and France, and the various soundings at their entrances. Edward was no less versed in foreign policy, taking notes of every thing he heard, which he committed to paper in Greek, that they might not be understood by those near him, and then copied them out fair in a journal or diary, which he constantly kept, that invaluable memento being still preserved in the Cottonian Library.

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Triconderago surrendered to the British troops, under the command of General Burgoyne.

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The town of Porto Ferrajo, in the island of Elba, was occupied by the forces of his Britannic Majesty. This town is rendered famous in having been the residence of the Emperor Napoleon during his continuance on the Isle of Elba

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JULY THE SEVENTH.

Death of King Edward the First, 1307.—Discovery of the Remains of Edward the Fifth and his Brother, 1674.

King Edward the First incensed at the brilliant successes of Robert Bruce, summoned his vassals to meet him at Carlisle, when he set forwards with the intention of destroying the Scotch kingdom from sea to sea, having drawn together the finest army England had ever furnished. The monarch was, however, taken ill at Carlisle, and died of a dysentery at Burgh upon the Sands, while on his march for Scotland, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, and the thirty-fifth of his reign, and was interred in Westminster Abbey the 8th of October following. Edward in consequence of the new model he gave the English constitution deservedly acquired the title of the ENGLISH JUSTINIAN, and proved to his countrymen of more sterling advantage in his civil than military capacity, however brilliant the latter proved. This was the first English prince who quartered the arms of France with those of England, and was denominated *Lord of Ireland* upon the coin of the realm.

The remains of King Edward the Fifth, and Richard, Duke of York, his brother, were discovered buried deep in the rubbish of the stairs leading to the chapel of the White Tower, after lying there 201 years, and were afterwards, by order of King Charles the Second, deposited with those of their ancestors in Henry the Seventh's chapel at Westminster, and an elegant monument raised to their memory.

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JULY THE EIGHTH.

*Battle of Ascalon, 1191.—Death of King Robert Bruce, 1329.*

Richard, being now left sole conductor of the war, went on from victory to victory, when the Christian adventurers under his command determined to besiege the renowned




city of Ascalon, in order to prepare the way for attacking Jerusalem with greater advantage.

Saladin, the most renowned of all the Saracen monarchs, was resolved to dispute their march, and placed himself upon the road with an army of three hundred thousand men. This proved a day equal to Richard's most sanguine wishes; and such was an enemy worthy of his highest ambition. The English proved victorious, for Richard, when the wings of his army had been defeated, led on the main body of his forces in person, and restored the battle. The Saracens fled in the utmost confusion, and no less than forty thousand souls are stated to have perished on the field of battle. Ascalon soon surrendered after that victory; other cities of less note followed its example, and Richard was at last enabled to advance within sight of Jerusalem, the object of his long and ardent expectation. But just at this glorious juncture, his ambition was to suffer a total overthrow; for reviewing his forces, and considering his abilities as to prosecuting the siege, he found his army so wasted by famine, fatigue, and even victory, that the troops were neither able or willing to second the views of their gallant commander. It appeared, therefore, absolutely necessary to come to an accommodation with Saladin, and a truce for three years was accordingly concluded, in which the princes agreed that the sea port towns of Palestine should remain in the hands of the Christians; while all of that religion should be permitted to make their pilgrimages to Jerusalem in perfect safety.

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Robert Bruce having been privately sent for by his adherents out of England, was crowned by the nobility of Scotland in 1306, to the exclusion of Baliol (who had been supported by Edward the First), and his successors for ever; the latter having betrayed the sovereignty of the Scottish crown settled on Bruce and his posterity. Preference, however, was to have been given to his brother and his male issue before his own daughters, and, in the event of any future controversy arising as to the succession, it was to be determined by Parliament, to prevent



any competition in future. Robert Bruce was incontestably one of the greatest captains of his age, whose arms expelled the English from the Scottish soil, and extended its boundaries as far as Stanmore. He expired in the twenty-fourth year of his brilliant and victorious reign.

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JULY THE NINTH.

Battle of Northampton, 1460.

Warwick was one of the most celebrated generals of his age; formed for times of trouble, extremely artful, and incontestably brave; equally skilful in council and the field, and influenced by a spirit of hatred against Queen Margaret that nothing could repress. On the other hand, that princess seemed the only acting general; she ranged her army, and gave the necessary orders, while her husband, King Henry the Sixth, was brought forward an involuntary spectator of those martial preparations.

Both armies met on a plain near Northampton, the queen's forces amounting to about five and twenty thousand men, the Earl of Warwick having nearly double the number. While Margaret proceeded from rank to rank, the king remained in his tent, awaiting the issue of the combat, with female doubts and apprehensions. The battle continued for five hours, with the utmost obstinacy, but at length the good fortune and superior numbers of Warwick prevailed. The queen's army was overthrown, and she had the misfortune to behold the king once more made a prisoner, and conducted back to his capital by a triumphant and victorious enemy.

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**JULY THE TENTH.**

*Dreadful fire in London, 1212.—Lady Jane Gray proclaimed, 1553.—Colonel Gerard beheaded, 1654.*

Great part of London was burnt down by a conflagration which began in Southwark, and after consuming the church of St. Mary Overy, raged to the bridge, and while many were occupied in quenching the flames, the dwell-

ings at the other extremity of the bridge also caught fire, by which means numbers being enclosed between the two fires, were forced to leap into the Thames, while others crowding to save themselves in boats, which rowed to their relief, were the cause of their own destruction, the barks and people sinking together, when nearly three thousand souls perished by fire and water.

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The virtuous and ill-fated Lady Jane Gray, eldest daughter of Charles Duke of Suffolk, and Frances Brandon, who had espoused Lord Guilford Dudley, fourth son of John Duke of Northumberland, was, by the will of Edward the Sixth, nominated his successor, to the exclusion of his sister Mary. This accomplished and erudite princess, through the ambition of her own, as well as the father of her husband, was, in consequence, proclaimed queen, but immediately after deposed by Mary, and her adherents, which attempt cost the two dukes, the Lady Jane and her youthful lord, their heads on Tower Hill.

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Col. Gerard, nearly related to Lord Gerard, was implicated in one of the many plots, formed to assassinate Oliver Cromwell, and effect the restoration of Charles the Second; but, however cautiously those schemes were conducted, the vigilance of the Protector's government, and private emissaries, frustrated every plan laid to obtain this object so much desired by the royalists.

Mr. Gerard, who had been an ensign in the king's army, was accused and brought to trial before a high court of justice in 1654, for having harboured a design against the life of the Protector, to seize upon the Tower of London, and proclaim Charles Stuart king.

He was charged upon his trial with "having been at Paris, and there speaking with the king;" which he confessed; and declared "that he went upon business concerning himself only (which affair he named), and when he had despatched the same, and was on his return to England, he desired of Lord Gerard, his kinsman, to present him to the king, that he might kiss his hand, which he did in a large room, many persons being present; and that on

asking his majesty whether he would command him to perform any service in England, his majesty bade him to commend him to his friends there, and charge them that they should be quiet, and not engage in any plots which must prove ruinous to themselves, and could do him (the king) no good." However, it came out in proof that Mr. Gerard was present in a tavern, where discourse having been held, "how easy a thing it would be to kill the Protector, and seize upon the Tower, and if at the same time the king were proclaimed, the City of London would presently declare for his majesty, and nobody oppose him."

On such evidence, he was condemned to be hanged, the sentence being afterwards changed to that of beheading, which was executed July 10, 1654, on Tower-hill, at which period Gerard was in the 22d year of his age. He told the officers who attended him on the scaffold: "That if he had a hundred lives, he would lose them all to do the king service," and was then willing to die upon that suspicion; but that he was innocent of what was charged against him: that he had not entered into, or consented to any plot or conspiracy, nor countenanced any discourse to that effect; and then attempted to address the people in the king's favour, but the officers would not suffer him to proceed; whereupon, with undaunted courage, he laid his head upon the block, which was severed from his body at one blow.

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JULY THE ELEVENTH.

Battle of Oudenarde, 1708.

Prince Eugene and the Duke of Marlborough drew up the forces which had passed the Scheld, and formed the right wing near the castle of Broan, when, after a cannonading of some field pieces the battle began, and the fire was most terrible, every inch of ground being defended with determined obstinacy on both sides. The allies however, encouraged by the presence of the prince and the duke, and animated by their example, as they led the charge in person, broke the enemy's line, who were compelled to give ground. Field Marshal d'Au-

verquerque, who had been in a languishing condition during the preceding winter, headed the left wing, eager to mingle in the conflict, as neither sickness nor fifty campaigns had damped his military ardor. At five o'clock therefore he charged the enemy, so that in one hour the right, left, and centre were engaged at the same time, which lasted three hours, the fire continuing without intermission, and the battle raging with unabated fury. At length however, the French finding themselves so hotly pressed in front and in flank, and unable longer to resist the firing of their opponents, were compelled to retire. The household of the French king having suffered greatly from the Electoral Prince of Hanover at the head of his father's cavalry, fled in the utmost disorder, leaving numerous prisoners. Out of four regiments stationed there, one half were cut in pieces, while the rest, consulting how they might effect a passage through the ranks of the allies, were offered quarter in the event of their surrendering themselves prisoners of war, which terms were accepted. Night at length terminated this sanguinary battle, so glorious for Eugene and Marlborough and fatal to the arms of France; the latter leaving 4000 slain, and having 5000 wounded, while 8000 prisoners remained in the hands of the victors, amongst whom were 750 officers, the most conspicuous personages being the Dukes de St. Agnan and Charost; the Marquisses de Biron and Raffey, and the Chevalier de Rohan; the Marquis de Ximenes, Col. Roussillon, and Sieur de la Bretesche, were among the slain. The allies lost 45 officers and 1000 men in killed, and near double that number wounded.

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**JULY THE TWELFTH.**

*Henry the Second performed penance, 1174.—Defeat of William King of Scotland, 1174—Henry the Eighth espoused Catherine Parr, 1543.—Martyrdom of Bradford, 1555.—Death of Richard Cromwell, 1712.*

**As soon as Henry arrived within sight of the cathedral**

of Canterbury, alighting from his horse, he proceeded barefooted towards the city, when prostrating himself before the shrine of the Sainted Becket, he continued fasting and in prayer during the whole day. At night he was doomed to watch the holy relics, making a grant of fifty pounds annually to the monastery, in order to supply tapers for illuminating the shrine. Not satisfied with those submissions, the monarch then convened a chapter of the monks, before which he unrobed, putting a scourge of discipline in each of their hands, and then presented his bare shoulders in order to receive their infliction. The following day Henry received absolution, and repaired to London, where he learned the welcome tidings of a victory having been obtained over the Scots on the very day in which forgiveness had been accorded him for Becket's assassination.

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The victory obtained over William, King of Scotland, was signal and decisive. That monarch had committed the most horrible depredations in the northern frontiers, but thought proper to retire on ascertaining that an English army had set forwards commanded by Ralph de Glanville, the famous lawyer. The Scotch monarch having encamped at Alnwick, thought himself perfectly secure from any attack in consequence of the remoteness of his enemies; in which conjecture however he was deceived, for Glanville informed of his situation, made a hasty and fatiguing march to the place of his encampment, which he approached under cover of a very thick mist. The Scotch, who remained in perfect security, were surprised in the morning to find themselves vigorously beset by the English, whom they imagined at a great distance, and William venturing with a small body of horse to oppose his assailants, was speedily wounded and made prisoner. The Scotch when informed of that disaster, fled on all sides with the utmost precipitancy, and made the best of their way to their own country.

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King Henry the Eighth espoused the lady Catherine Parr, widow of Lord Latimer, as no unmarried female

would venture to trust herself to the construction which the tyrannical monarch might think fit to put upon the act which he had procured to be past after the decapitation of Catherine Howard for incontinence.—*See page 98.*

John Bradford was a native of Manchester, who after receiving a liberal education, became the confidential servant of Sir John Harrington, Knight. This pious man was first urged to preach by Martin Bucer, who, when expressing doubts as to his ability, the latter remarked: "If thou hast not wheaten, give the poor people barley bread, or whatsoever God hath committed unto thee." Dr. Ridley, Bishop of London, first called Bradford to take a deacon's degree, and gave him a prebend's stall in his cathedral church of St. Paul's.

After preaching zealously during three years, King Edward the Sixth died, notwithstanding which Bradford continued to deliver his sermons until Queen Mary's interdict compelled him to desist. Some time after, a tumult was occasioned on account of the Bishop of Bath preaching at St. Paul's Cross, when the life of that dignitary was endangered, from which perilous situation he was saved by Bradford, whose exhortations tended to allay the popular tumult. However, three days after the latter was committed to the Tower, and ordered to appear before the Queen's Council, when the having rescued the bishop was literally charged against him for seditious conduct as well as his preaching. Having been removed to different prisons, he was at length sent to Newgate, where he is stated to have had a dream foreboding that upon the ensuing Monday he should be burned in Smithfield, which fate was the following evening announced to him by the keeper's wife. Being led to the fatal pile, Bradford fell flat upon the earth, and in that situation fervently prayed, then rising he disrobed himself to his shirt, and boldly advanced to the stake, where he suffered with one John Leaf, both yielding up their pious souls with resignation, in the full assurance of everlasting bliss in heaven.

Richard, eldest son of Oliver Cromwell, who succeeded to the Protectorship on the third of September, 1658, died at Cheshunt in Hertfordshire, in the ninetieth year of his age.

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JULY THE THIRTEENTH.

Treaty between England and Scotland, 1586.

A new treaty was this day ratified between England and Scotland, whereby it was stipulated that in case the former should be attacked, James the Sixth was to assist Queen Elizabeth with 17,000 men; and if the latter country was invaded, the English queen would join the Scotch with 9000 troops, those auxiliaries to be maintained by either party standing in need of such assistance.

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JULY THE FOURTEENTH.

*Henry the Eighth separated from Catherine of Arragon, 1531.—Henrietta Maria embarked for France, 1644.*

The capricious Henry having received the title of Supreme Head of the English Church and Clergy, resolved on his union with Anne Bolen, and in consequence separated from the ill used Queen Catherine, whom he never after saw. The latter princess, overcome with affliction, first took up her abode at East Hampstead, and afterwards removed to Ampthill.

After the signal defeat sustained by Prince Rupert at the battle of Marston Moor, Charles the First conceiving that his queen might be in danger, intimated a wish that she should seek refuge abroad until the fate of the civil war was decided. In consequence of that resolution, Henrietta Maria proceeded to Falmouth, where she embarked for France, and safely landed at Brest two days after.

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JULY THE FIFTEENTH.

The Duke of Monmouth beheaded, 1685.—The Empe-

ror Napoleon embarked on board the Bellerophon, 1815.

After the battle of Sedgemoor, Monmouth fled above twenty miles, when his exhausted charger sunk under him; the Duke then alighted, and changing apparel with a shepherd, proceeded on foot, attended only by a German count who had been the companion of his voyage from Holland. In this manner the fugitives continued their route, until completely subdued by hunger and exhaustion, they laid down in a field, and to escape discovery covered themselves over with fern. The pursuers of Monmouth having found the shepherd in the prince's clothes, diligently proceeded to ascertain his retreat, when, by means of bloodhounds, he was discovered in his miserable situation, having a few raw peas in his pocket which he had gathered to sustain the imperious calls of nature. The Duke on delivering himself up, burst into tears, and in abject terms petitioned for his life, and subsequently forwarded the most submissive and importunate letters to James the Second, who, willing to feast his eyes on the miseries of a fallen enemy, granted him an audience. On that occasion the duke fell upon his knees and begged for life, even submitting to affix his signature to a paper presented him for that purpose by the king, declaring his own illegitimacy, after which the stern despot told him that his crime was of such a heinous nature that pardon could not be extended towards him. Monmouth perceiving that he had nothing to expect from the clemency of his obdurate uncle, roused the dormant spirit in his soul, and assuming the most dignified demeanour, haughtily retired from the royal presence. This unfortunate prince was attended to the scaffold by the compassion of the populace, on which melancholy occasion he warned the executioner not to fall into the same error which he had committed in decapitating Lord Russel, where it was found necessary to repeat the fatal blow. That caution, however, only tended to increase the severity of the duke's punishment, for the man being seized by a universal trepidation, struck very feebly, upon which the lacerated duke, raising his head from the block, looked

towards him in token of reproach, and then gently laid it down a second time, when the irresolute executioner struck again and again, but to no purpose. At length the miserable wretch threw down the weapon of death in despair, but the sheriff having compelled him to resume the attempt, horrible to relate, two more blows were necessary to complete that deed of slaughter. Such proved the miserable and torturing destiny of James, Duke of Monmouth, the darling of the English people; an affable, brave, and sincere prince; who having been too prone to the adulations of flattery, embarked in a dangerous enterprize, which proved too momentous for his capacity to execute.

Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of France, embarked on board the Bellerophon, laying off Rochefort, and surrendered himself up to Captain Maitland, who on the following day set sail for England with his illustrious prisoner.

JULY THE SIXTEENTH.

Coronation of Richard the Second, 1377.

Richard, only surviving child of the gallant and virtuous Edward, surnamed the Black Prince, eldest son of Edward the Third by his wife Joan, daughter of Edmund Earl of Kent, succeeded to the English crown on the death of his grandfather, being then in his eleventh year. On the present day, Richard was solemnly inaugurated at Westminster, during which august ceremony the same coronation oath used to the present time, with some little alteration, was administered. The champion figuring at those ceremonies attended on the present occasion, being the first mentioned in history, though unquestionably of a date far more remote, being claimed by virtue of a right annexed to the manor of Scrivelly, in Lincolnshire. Immediately after the solemnity, Richard conferred several dignities upon his uncles, and others of the nobility, to each of whom he granted a pension of one thousand marks.

At the period in question the people were discontented and poor, and the nobles proud and rebellious. A spirit of profusion had entered into the kingdom with the love of gallantry, which, while it gave rise to indolence and rapacity in the higher orders, produced want and disobedience among the poor.

Richard being a minor, the government was vested in the hands of his three uncles, the Dukes of Lancaster, York, and Gloucester; the difference of whose dispositions it was supposed would serve to check the defects of each other. Lancaster, though experienced during the late reign in government, was neither popular nor enterprising; York was indolent and weak; Gloucester turbulent, popular, and ambitious. Under the secret influence of those princes, without any regency being appointed, the whole system of government was kept together for some years, so that the authority established during the former reign, still continued to operate for a period in this.



JULY THE SEVENTEENTH.

Sir Robert Shirley arrived from Persia, 1612.

Sir Robert Shirley, after a residence of ten years at the court of Persia, where he had been preferred to the post of general of the artillery, having also espoused a princess of the royal family of Persia, arrived at the English court as ambassador from the Sophy of that country, being the bearer of an offer to the British merchants, for establishing a free trade to Persia on the most advantageous terms. The princess, Sir Robert Shirley's wife, accompanied her husband on that occasion, who, while in England, was delivered of a child, to which the queen stood godmother, and Henry Prince of Wales, eldest son of King James the First, godfather.



JULY THE EIGHTEENTH.

Defeat of the French at Tirlumont, 1705.

After the capture of the town of Huy by the confede-

rates, the Duke of Marlborough forced the French lines near Tirllemont, and defeated a great body of the enemy's forces; which success was deemed of so much consequence as regarded the ultimate result of the campaign, that Queen Anne ordered a public thanksgiving should be observed throughout England, which accordingly took place the third of August following.



JULY THE NINETEENTH.

Battle of Halidon Hill, 1333.—Philip of Spain landed in England, 1554.

Baliol, shortly after his coronation, having been attacked and defeated by Sir Archibald Douglas, once more fled for refuge to the court of Edward the Third of England, who joyfully accepted the offer of homage and superiority tendered by the Scottish prince, which his reverse of fortune compelled him to make. Edward in consequence resolved to collect forces, in order to reinstate the deposed King of Scotland in a government which would ever after become subordinate to that of England. He accordingly prevailed upon his parliament to grant a supply, the same being acceded to reluctantly, when, with a well disciplined army, Edward laid siege to Berwick, which town capitulated after a vigorous defence; and it was while attempting to relieve the place in question, that this general engagement took place between the English and the Scots. The battle was fought at a spot called Halidon Hill, a little northward of Berwick, and contested with great obstinacy on both sides: however the fortune of the English prince was predominant, Douglas, the Scottish commander being slain, when the army immediately fled. This victory is stated, in a great measure, to have been obtained by the skill of the English archers, who at that period were famed over Europe for their peculiar expertness in the use of that weapon. All the Scotch noblemen of distinction were either killed or made prisoners, nearly 30,000 men being slain, while the loss

of the English amounted to only 15 men, an inequality almost incredible, was it not attested by the best historians. That important conquest decided the fate of Scotland; Baliol, with very little trouble, rendering himself master of the kingdom; while the English monarch returned in triumph, having previously secured and garrisoned some of the principal towns, which were declared to be thenceforward annexed to the English monarchy.

Prince Philip of Spain arrived in England, and was married to Queen Mary at Winchester, on the 25th of this month. The Spanish monarch at the time of his landing, conveyed twenty-seven chests, each forty inches in length filled with bullion; he had also ninety-nine horse loads, and two cart loads of gold and silver, which enormous wealth infused fresh zeal in the people of England for Mary's interest, and those devoted to her, as well as for the Catholic doctrine so rigidly enforced by her favourite adviser, Bishop Gardiner.

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**JULY THE TWENTIETH.**

*King John absolved by the Pope, 1213.*

Having once more by the most abject submission to the Romish See reinstated himself in power, John gave vent to his accustomed cruelty and insolence. One Peter of Pomfret, a poor hermit, had foretold that the King should lose his crown this very year, for which rash prophecy he was thrown into Corfe Castle, when the King resolved to punish him as an impostor, and had him arraigned for that purpose. Peter, who was in all probability a wretched enthusiast, maintained the veracity of his prediction, alledging that John had actually lost his crown by surrendering it to the Pope, from whom he had so recently received his diadem. The feasibility of such an argument would have succeeded with any man less cruel and implacable than John, who, on the contrary, conceived that the defence only augmented his crime, and the unfortunate hermit was in

consequence trailed at the tails of horses to the town of Warham, where he was hung upon a gibbet, together with his son. Thus, by repeated acts of violence and cruelty; by expeditions without effect, and humiliations without reserve; John had long become the detestation of all mankind. Equally odious and contemptible in public and private life, he incensed the barons by his insolence, and dishonoured their families by his debaucheries, added to which they were disgusted by his tyranny, and impoverished through his unceasing exactions.

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JULY THE TWENTY-FIRST.

The Spanish Armada attacked, 1588.—Lord Russel decapitated, 1633.

Having received intelligence that the Armada was ready for sea, the Lord High Admiral of England leaving Lord Hugh Seymour in the narrow seas to awe the Dukes of Parma and Guise, set sail on the 21st May, 1588, from the Downs, bearing westward. Having been joined at Plymouth by Vice-Admiral Drake, he ordered the whole fleet, amounting to about ninety ships, to be victualled with all expedition, and then sailed from that port to cruize between Ushant and Scilly, awaiting the arrival of the enemy's fleet.

This famous armament, equipped by Spain, for the conquest of England, consisted of 92 galleons or large ships of the line, four galliasses, thirty frigates, the same number of transports for horses, and four gallies containing 8350 seamen, 2080 galley slaves, and 19,290 land forces, the whole under command of the Duke of Medina Celi. Added to those forces the Prince of Parma, who ruled in Flanders, had been ordered to provide transports and flat-bottomed boats for transporting an army of horse and foot from the Netherlands to England.

At the same time Pope Sextus the Fifth published a crusade against Queen Elizabeth, declaring her de-throned, and her people absolved from their allegiance, which drew many Catholic volunteers of quality from

himself to his fate with manly fortitude. His wife, daughter of the Earl of Southampton, finding all supplications vain, took leave of her lord without shedding a tear, while he, on parting from her, turned to those about him, exclaiming, "Now all the bitterness of death is over." A little before the sheriffs led his lordship forth for execution, he wound up his watch with the greatest composure, and remarked, "I have now done with time, and must henceforth think of eternity." The scaffold for Russel's execution was erected in Lincoln's-inn-fields, upon which he laid his neck on the block without displaying the smallest change of countenance, and at two strokes his head was severed from his body.

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**JULY THE TWENTY-SECOND.**

*The Battles of Falkirk, 1298 ; and Shrewsbury, 1403.*  
—*Admiral Calder's Victory, 1805.*

It may easily be supposed, that the Scots, even if united, were but ill able to resist such an army ; commanded too by such a king as Edward the First. But their own mutual dissensions served to render them still more unequal to the contest, and prepare Edward's way to an easy triumph. The Scotch were headed by three commanders, each claimed an equal share of authority ; these being the steward of Scotland, Cummins of Badenoch, and William Wallace, who offered to surrender up his command, but whose party refused to follow any other leader. The Scotch army was posted at Falkirk, and there proposed to await the attack of the English. Being drawn up in three separate divisions, each forming a complete body of pikemen, having their spaces filled up by archers, their horsemen placed in the rear, and their front secured by pallisadoes. Edward, though he saw the advantage of situation was against him, little regarded such a superiority, confident of his skill, and his numbers ; wherefore dividing his forces also into three bodies, he led them to the attack. Just as Edward advanced at the head of his troops, the Scots

set up such a shout, that the horse which the English monarch rode took fright, then threw, and afterwards kicked him on the ribs as he lay upon the ground ; but the intrepid prince, although much bruised, quickly remounted with his usual alacrity, and ordered the Welch troops to commence the attack. Those forces, however, made but a feeble resistance against the Scots, who fought with determined valour, when Edward seeing them begin to give way, advanced in person at the head of another battalion ; and having torn up the pallisadoes, charged his adversaries with such impetuosity, that they were no longer able to resist. In that distress, Wallace did all that lay in the power of man, in order to withstand the shock ; but the division commanded by Cummin quitted the field, while those of the Lord Steward, as well as that of Wallace, lay exposed to the English archers, who at that time began to excel all other nations in the use of the bow. Wallace for a while maintained an unequal contest with his pikemen ; but finding himself in danger of being surrounded, was at length obliged to give way, and slowly draw up the feeble remnants of his troops behind the river Carron. Such was the result of the famous battle of Falkirk, in which Edward gained a complete victory, leaving twelve thousand of the Scots, or as some say, fifty thousand dead upon the field, while the English had not one hundred men slain.

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Upon the approach of the two armies near Shrewsbury, both seemed willing to give a colour to their cause, by shewing a desire of reconciliation ; but when they came to unfold their mutual demands, the treaty was turned into abuse and recrimination, wherefore on the one side was objected rebellion and ingratitude ; and on the other tyranny and usurpation. The two armies were pretty nearly equal, each consisting of about twelve thousand men ; while the animosity on both sides was inflamed to the highest pitch ; and no prudence nor military skill could determine on which side the victory might incline. Accordingly a very bloody engagement ensued, when the generals on both sides exerted themselves with great



bravery. Henry was seen every where in the thickest of the fight; while his valiant son, who was afterwards the renowned conqueror of France, fought by his side, and though wounded in the face by an arrow, still kept the field and performed astonishing acts of valour. On the other hand, the daring Hotspur supported that renown which he had acquired in so many previous and sanguinary engagements, and every where sought out the king as the noble object worthy to encounter his indignation. At length, however, the death of Percy, who fell by an unknown hand, decided the victory; and the fortune of Henry once more prevailed. On that day it is said no less than two thousand three hundred gentlemen were slain, and about six thousand private men, of whom two-thirds had constituted part of Hotspur's army.

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On the 22nd of July, Sir Robert Calder being between Corunna and Ferrol; about three leagues from Cape Finisterre, fell in with the Combined Fleet returning from the West Indies. The result of the action which ensued, is thus stated by Sir Robert in a letter to Admiral Cornwallis, Commander-in-Chief.

Sir,—Yesterday at noon, lat. 43 deg. 30 min. North long. 11 deg. 17 min. West, I was favoured with a view of the Combined Squadrons of France and Spain, consisting of twenty sail of the line, also three large ships armed *en-flute*, of about fifty guns each, with five frigates, and three brigs; the force under my direction at this time consisting of fifteen sail of the line, a cutter and a logger. I immediately stood towards the enemy, making the needful signals for battle in the closest order; and on coming up, I made the signal for attacking their centre. When I had reached their rear, I attacked the squadron in succession, which brought us close up under their lee; and when our headmost ships reached their centre, the enemy were tacking in succession: this obliged me to repeat the same manœuvre, which led to an action of four hours, when I found it necessary to cover the two captured ships, being the

San Rafael of 84, and the Fernio of 74 guns. I have great pleasure in saying, that every ship was conducted in the most masterly stile, and I thus publicly return thanks to each captain, officer, and man, for his gallantry and good conduct. If I may judge from the slaughter on board the captured ships, the enemy must have suffered greatly. They are now in sight to windward, and as soon as I have secured the captured ships, and refitted the squadron, I shall endeavour to avail myself of the first opportunity that may appear, to give you some further account of these Combined Squadrons.

R. CALDER.

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JULY THE TWENTY-THIRD.

The Book of Common Prayer introduced at Edinburgh, 1637.—Insurrection at Dublin, and Assassination of Lord Kilwarden, 1803.

The Book of Common Prayer, expressly composed for the use of the Scottish Church, being this day appointed to be read by the Dean of Edinburgh at Saint Giles's, he was interrupted by a factious multitude; on which occasion a stool was thrown at his head, and the magistrates found great difficulty in dispersing the malcontents. The service was then read in that and the other churches; but the Bishop of Edinburgh with difficulty escaped being assassinated when returning to his house. In September following, the Scotch Presbyterians presented a petition to the Privy Council against the Church Service Book, and at the commencement of the following year, an insurrection took place in Edinburgh, which terminated in the Scotch throwing off their allegiance, when Archbishop Spotswood and several of the Scottish bishops fled to England for safety.

An insurrection broke out in Dublin, during which Lord Kilwarden, Chief Justice in Ireland, was murdered by the disaffected, while passing through the streets in his carriage. This proved the commencement of a fresh rebellion in that country.

JULY THE TWENTY-FOURTH.

Capture of Gibraltar by Sir George Rooke, 1703.

The attempt on Barcelona having failed, Sir George Rooke resolved to return to Lisbon and await reinforcements from England. Two days after passing the Streights he fell in, off Cape Lagos, with Sir Cloudesly Shovel and a squadron of thirty-three sail of the line. Sir George instantly summoned a council of war to consider what enterprise should be undertaken, when it was resolved to attempt the reduction of Gibraltar. On the 21st, the fleet entered the bay, and the Prince of Hesse with 1800 marines, immediately landed on the Isthmus, in order to cut off all communication between the rock and the continent. The governor being then summoned to surrender, replied that he would defend the place to the last extremity. The Admiral, accordingly, gave orders on the morning of the 22nd for caunonading the place, and in five hours the Spaniards were repulsed from their fortifications at the New Mole. That was no sooner observed by the Admiral, than he commanded all the boats to be manned and armed, in order that a general attack should be made in that quarter. Captains Hicks and Jumper, who happened to be nearest the Mole, immediately stormed the fortifications with intrepid bravery; but the enemy springing a mine on their approach, two lieutenants and forty men were killed, and sixty wounded. The English, notwithstanding, made themselves masters of the grand platform, where they maintained their ground till Captain Whitaker, with a body of seamen, came to their assistance when they advanced and took by storm a redoubt, situated between the Mole and the town. This latter success induced the governor to capitulate on the 24th, when the Prince of Hesse took possession of the place. In that daring enterprise, only two officers, one master, and sixty men were killed, and two hundred and twenty wounded, among whom were one captain and seven lieutenants.

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JULY THE TWENTY-FIFTH.

*Coronation of Edward the First, 1274.—Marriage of*



*Queen Mary to Philip of Spain, 1554.—James the First crowned, 1603.*

Edward the First, eldest son of Henry the Third, by Eleanor of Provence, born at Westminster June 17, 1239, was surnamed Longshanks from his lofty stature. On the death of his father in 1272 he was in the Holy Land, and although the English ministers were ignorant whether he was yet living or not, they proceeded to proclaim him King, when proper persons were appointed to manage the public affairs. After fortifying Ascalon, in Syria, Edward returned to England, where he was received with every demonstration of joy, and having occupied two years in settling his affairs in Aquitaine, he was, with Eleanor his Queen, inaugurated at Westminster this day.

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The individual towards whom Queen Mary's affections seemed chiefly directed was the Earl of Devonshire; but that nobleman, either disliking her person or having placed his affections on her sister Elizabeth, neglected all overtures for such an alliance. Cardinal Pole, who, though invested with that ecclesiastical dignity, was nevertheless a layman possessing a high character for virtue, generosity, and attachment to the Catholic persuasion, was the next individual thought of; but that personage being in the decline of life, Mary relinquished all idea of such a union. The prince last thought of was Philip, of Spain, son of the famous Emperor Charles the Fifth. In order, therefore, to avoid any disagreeable remonstrances from the people, the articles of marriage were drawn up as favourably as possible for the interests and honour of England; which precaution in some measure quieted the clamours that had already been manifested. By the document in question it was stipulated, that although Philip should be invested with the kingly title, all administration should be vested in the Queen; that no foreigner should be suffered to enjoy any office in the kingdom; that no innovation should be made in the English laws, customs, and privileges; that her issue should inherit, together with Eng-

land, Burgundy and the Low Countries; that if Don Carlos, Philip's son by a previous marriage, should die, the Queen's issue should then enjoy all the territories possessed by the King. Such was the treaty of marriage, from which great changes were foreseen in the system of European politics, but which in the end came to nothing, as the Queen had no issue.

James the First being settled in London, whither he had repaired on the demise of Elizabeth, dispatched several noblemen to Scotland in order to escort his Queen and children to England. On their return, the coronation of this monarch was solemnized at Westminster, on which occasion James felt pride in the idea that the prediction was accomplished, which was said to have foretold that the House of Stuart should one day receive the diadem in the regal chair of Scotland, which had been conveyed from thence by Edward the First, with the regalia, when that monarch effected the subjugation of the Scottish realm.

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JULY THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

Battle of Danesmoor, 1469.—Surrender of Bristol to the Royalists, 1643.

The Earl of Pembroke having been ordered to levy an army in Wales, assembled his vassals, and was joined by Lord Stafford, when their combined forces amounted to 20,000 men. The latter nobleman, however, in disgust, shortly after abandoned the royal standard and joined the malcontents, when they appeared in open rebellion and defeated the forces of King Edward the Fourth, at Danesmoor, near Banbury. On that occasion, the Earl of Pembroke was made prisoner and decapitated at the latter town; five thousand Welshmen having perished in that sanguinary conflict.

The forces of King Charles the First having made themselves masters of Bristol, with many other places in

the west and north of England, his Majesty published a second declaration inviting his subjects to return to their allegiance, offering them unqualified pardon, and the full enjoyment of their rights and liberties.

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**JULY THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.**

*Duke of Buckingham set sail for Rochelle, 1627.—Keppel engaged the French Fleet under the Duke de Chartres, 1778.*

The Duke of Buckingham, having under his command a fleet of a hundred ships of various dimensions, with 7000 land forces, set sail from Portsmouth for the city of Rochelle, in France, where, being refused admittance, he landed in the isle of Rhee; but being foiled in his endeavours to capture fort *La Prée*, he returned to England in November following, having incurred disgrace from the loss of one-third of his troops, without effecting any thing of moment. In the commission vested in Buckingham, it was expressly stated, that the expedition was intended to effect the restoration of the King of Bohemia and his family to the throne.

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The French fleet, under the Dukes de Chartres and d'Orvilliers, and the English, commanded by Admiral Keppel, met and engaged within sight of Brest, where the action proved undecisive. Keppel was in consequence tried by a court martial on his return, but honourably acquitted.

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**JULY THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

*Cromwell, Earl of Essex, beheaded, 1540.—Capture of Buenos Ayres, 1806.—Battle of Talavera, 1809.*

The disgrace of Cromwell, Earl of Essex, was no sooner made known, than all his former friends forsook him, excepting Cranmer, who wrote such a letter to Henry in his behalf, as no other man in the kingdom would have presumed to forward. He was, however, accused in parliament of heresy and treason; and without even being

heard in his own defence, condemned to suffer such a death as the King should think proper to direct. Cromwell's fortitude seemed to forsake him in that dreadful exigency, and he wrote to his despotic master for pardon, remarking that the flesh excited him continually to apply to his grace for mercy, and he subscribed his epistle: "With a heavy heart and a trembling hand, from the King's most miserable prisoner and poor slave at the Tower, Thomas Cromwell! Mercy! mercy! mercy!"

Cromwell's letter touched the hard heart of the Monarch, who ordered it to be read to him three times; and then, as if willing to gain a victory over his softer feelings, signed the warrant for beheading Essex upon Tower-hill. Cromwell being conducted upon the scaffold, his regard for his son prevented him from expatiating on his own innocence; he thanked God for bringing him to that death for his transgressions; confessed he had often been seduced, but that he then died in the Catholic faith. It was thus Henry, not satisfied with the death of those whom he chose to punish, witnessed all their complaints in like manner, and terrified the unhappy sufferers from the last consolation of the wretched; the satisfaction of upbraiding their persecutor. In this manner the unfortunate victim having spent some time in private devotion, submitted his neck to the executioner, who mangled it in a most terrible manner. A few days after Cromwell's death, a number of persons were also executed together upon very different accusations; some for having denied the King's supremacy, and others because they had maintained the doctrines of Luther.

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Sir Home Popham attacked the Spanish forces at Buenos Ayres, and made himself master of that important settlement.

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Joseph Bonaparte finding that the plan of passing into the south of Spain through the passes of the Sierra Morena was hopeless, joined the army under Victor, marching strong reinforcements from General Sebastiani's division. Marshal Victor thus strengthened, having

35,000 men, was then stationed in the neighbourhood of Talavera, and along the banks of the river Alberche, which position he had taken to oppose the march of the united English and Spanish armies against Madrid. The Generals at length determined on the plan of operations which they should jointly pursue. The Spaniards, under Cuesta, were computed at 38,000 men, while the forces of Venegas, who had advanced to Madrilejos, amounted to 7000 cavalry and a proportionate number of infantry. By the 20th of July, a complete junction of the British and Spaniards was effected, and measures instantly taken to carry into effect the plan of operations agreed upon by Sir Arthur Wellesley (afterwards Duke of Wellington), and General Cuesta. In the interim, all the French forces in that part of Spain were united, consisting of the divisions of Marshal Victor, Sebastiani, the guard of Joseph Bonaparte, amounting to 1000 men, and the garrison of Madrid. With that united force, the French attacked Cuesta and obliged him to fall back on the British with considerable loss; when they attacked the united Spanish and British forces, with the Portuguese auxiliaries; but being unsuccessful, they recrossed the Alberche in regular order, leaving twenty pieces of cannon and a few prisoners. The loss of the enemy in killed and wounded was supposed to have amounted to 10,000 men, that of the British having been proportionably severe, and estimated at 6000. The Spaniards having been only partially engaged, their loss was comparatively small, not exceeding 1000 in killed, wounded, and missing.

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JULY THE TWENTY-NINTH.

Statute passed respecting the seizure of Monasteries, 1540.—Mary of Scotland espoused Lord Darnley, 1565.—Prince James crowned at Stirling, 1567.—Victory over the Dutch, and Death of Van Tromp, 1653.

The famous statute of Henry the Eighth was this day made, confirming the seizures and surrenders of all the monastic institutions of England, amounting to 645,

whereof 28 were mitred Abbots, there being also suppressed 152 colleges, and 129 hospitals. The yearly value of those several establishments amounted to £161,000, besides the money arising from the materials of the houses, plate, jewels, and church ornaments. Camden computes the number of monasteries suppressed in England and Wales at 643, besides 90 colleges, 2374 chaptries and free chapels, and 110 hospitals.

On the 29th of July, says Dr. Robertson, Mary married Lord Darnley. The ceremony was performed in the Queen's chapel, according to the rites of the Romish church; the pope's bull dispensing with their marriage having been previously obtained. She issued, at the same time, proclamations, conferring the title of King of the Scots upon her husband, and commanding, that henceforth all suits at law should run in the joint names of King and Queen. Nothing can be a stronger proof of the evidence of Mary's love, or the weakness of her councils, than this last step. Whether she had any right to choose a husband without consent of Parliament, was, in that age, a matter of some dispute; that she had no right to confer upon him, by her private authority, the title and dignity of King, or by a simple proclamation to raise her husband to be the master of her people, seems to be beyond all doubt. Francis the Second, indeed, bore the same title; it was not, however, the gift of the Queen, but of the nation, and the consent of Parliament was obtained before he ventured to assume it. Darnley's condition as a subject rendered it still more necessary to have the concurrence of the supreme council in his favour. Such a violent and unprecedented stretch of prerogative, as the substituting a proclamation in place of an Act of Parliament, might have justly alarmed the nation; but, at that time, the Queen possessed so entirely the confidence of her subjects, that, notwithstanding all the clamours of the malcontents, no symptoms of general discontent appeared on that account.

Prince James, afterwards James the First of England, was crowned King of Scotland at Stirling, being then only thirteen months and eight days old. On the 10th of August ensuing, Murray was appointed regent, who convened a Parliament, and voted Mary an accomplice in the murder of her deceased husband, Lord Darnley, condemning her to imprisonment for the same, and ratifying her dismissal from the crown.

The British fleet, under General Monk and Admiral Blake, encountered the Dutch, commanded by the intrepid Van Tromp, on their own coast, and obtained a most signal victory. On that memorable occasion, the enemy lost thirty men of war, the Dutch Admiral being himself killed by a musket shot during the engagement. This proved the seventh and final sanguinary encounter between the commonwealths of England and Holland, all those battles having been fought nearly within the compass of one year.

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**JULY THE THIRTIETH.**

*Captain Cook returned from his Second Voyage of Discovery, 1775.*

Captain Cook sailed on his second Voyage of Discovery the 13th July, 1772; and in the February of the following year, anchored at New Zealand, having sought in vain a Southern Continent. In August he gained Otaheite; in September he discovered Harvey's Island; and on the 2nd of October touched at Middleburgh, one of the Friendly Islands. He next sailed to Easter Island, where he arrived in March 1774, and in the same month gained the Marquesas Isles. He then discovered four islands, which he named Palliser's Islands, and steered again for Otaheite, which he gained the 22nd of April. In August he touched at the New Hebrides, of some of which he was the original discoverer; and from thence sailed southward, and found New Caledonia. After steering for, and then leaving

New Zealand in search of a continent, which he did not discover, Cook came to the resolution of proceeding for the west entrance of the Straits of Magellan, in order to coast and survey the south side of Terra del Fuego. In January 1775, he found a large dreary island, which he named South Georgia, and afterwards snow clad coasts, to the southernmost of which he gave the name of Thule; and in February discovered Sandwich Island, and many islands covered also with snow. From thence Cook proceeded round the Cape of Good Hope, and afterwards made for England, where he arrived the 30th day of July, 1775.



#### JULY THE THIRTY-FIRST.

##### *Battle of Otterburne, 1386.*

The Scots taking advantage of the troubles that desolated England under the feeble reign of Richard the Second, passed the borders, and advanced as far as Newcastle, ravaging the country and putting all to fire and sword. In order to stop those atrocities, Hotspur Percy, son of the Earl of Northumberland, set forward with his retainers, and encountered the enemy at Otterburne, where a most desperate and sanguinary conflict took place, during which Hotspur with his own hand slew Douglas, the Scottish chieftain. Notwithstanding that advantage, however, the English were overthrown with great slaughter, and Percy himself made prisoner.



#### AUGUST THE FIRST.

*John made Prince Arthur prisoner, 1202.—Death of Queen Anne, and George the First proclaimed, 1714.—Battle of the Nile, 1798.*

As it was to the advantage of Philip, the French king, to treat Constantia and her son Arthur with all possible indulgence, they were received with great marks of distinction at the court of France, and the interests of the youthful prince were soon after very vigorously sup-

ported. One town after another submitted to his authority ; and all his attempts seemed attended with success, when his unfortunate ardour soon put an end to his hopes and his claims. Being of an enterprising disposition, and fond of military glory, he had laid siege to a fortress in which the dowager queen was protected, and defended by a weak garrison ; when John, falling upon his little army before he was aware of his approach, the young prince fell into his power, together with the most considerable of the revolted barons. The greater part of the prisoners were then sent to England ; but the unfortunate Arthur was shut up in the castle of Falaise. John thus finding a rival at his mercy, from whom he had every thing to apprehend, began to meditate upon measures which would most effectually remove all future apprehensions, when no other expedient presented itself, but that ever foremost in the imagination of tyrants, namely, the young prince's death. How this brave youth was dispatched is not well known. It is however certain, that from the moment of his confinement he was never heard of more ; and the most probable account of the horrid transaction, is as follows:—

King John having first proposed to one of his servants, William de la Braye, to dispatch Arthur, that brave domestic replied, " That he was a gentleman, and not an executioner." This officer not complying, John had recourse to another instrument, who proceeded with proper directions to the castle where Arthur was confined in order to destroy him, but still that prince's fate seemed suspended, as Hubert de Bourg, chamberlain to the king, and constable of the place, willing to save him, undertook the cruel office himself, and sent back the assassin to his employer. He was, however, soon obliged to confess the imposture, as Arthur's subjects vowing the severest revenge, Hubert to appease them, revealed the secret of his pretended death, and assured them that their prince was still alive, and safe in his custody. John thus finding that all his emissaries had still more compunction than himself, resolved with his own hands to execute the sanguinary deed ; and for

that purpose caused Arthur to be removed to the castle of Rouen, situated upon the river Seine. It was at midnight when the king repaired in a boat to the fortress, and ordered the young prince to be brought before him. Long confinement, solitude, and the continuance of bad fortune had broken his generous spirit; and perceiving that his death was meditated, he threw himself in the most imploring manner upon his knees before his uncle, and supplicated for mercy at his hands. John was, however, too hardened to feel any compunctious feelings for the wretched suppliant; his youth, affinity, and merits, being all disregarded, and even obnoxious in a rival. The barbarous tyrant, therefore, making no reply, stabbed Arthur with his own hand; and then fastening a stone to the body, threw it into the Seine. By that inhuman deed, John found himself freed from a hated rival; but fortunately for the instruction of future princes, it opened the way to his ultimate ruin, for having in this manner shewn himself the enemy of the human race, in the prosperity of his reign, men turned their backs upon him in his distress, so that John became, as it were, the beacon of scorn, and an object of universal detestation.

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Queen Anne was taken dangerously ill with a great heaviness and shooting pains in the head, when her physicians ordered cupping, which gave some relief, but the indisposition returning, it terminated in apoplexy; and although, upon taking more blood, her Majesty came to herself, she lay in a sort of lethargy, until the 1st of August, when she died a little after seven in the morning. in the 50th year of her age and the 13th of her reign. She was second daughter to James Duke of York, afterwards James the Second, by his first wife Lady Anne, daughter of Edward Hyde, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and afterwards Lord Chancellor of England. Anne was christened at St. James's palace, her eldest sister, the Lady Mary, and the Duchess of Monmouth; being her godmothers, and Dr. Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury, her godfather. She was married the 28th of July, 1683, to Prince George of Denmark; and had issue by him

one daughter still-born, of whom her Royal Highness was delivered on the 12th of May, 1681. Lady Mary was born at Whitehall the 2nd of June, 1685.

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George the First, Duke of Brunswick-Lunenburgh, and Elector of Hanover, succeeded to the crown on the demise of Queen Anne, by virtue of several Acts of Parliament, for securing the Protestant succession.

He was born May 28, 1660, being eldest son of Ernest-Augustus, Bishop of Osnaburg, Duke of Hanover, and Elector of Brunswick-Lunenburgh, by Princess Sophia, fifth and youngest daughter of Frederic V. Elector Palatine and King of Bohemia, and the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James the First, King of England.

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The English squadron, commanded by Rear-Admiral Nelson, attacked the Toulon fleet under the orders of Admiral Brueys, in the bay of shoals near Rosetta, where the enemy was moored in strong line of battle, flanked by gun-boats, and protected by a battery of cannons and mortars. The following was the gallant Admiral's dispatch respecting that glorious event, which from the peculiar modesty in which it is couched, and perspicuous brevity in the narration, we present in an unabridged state to our readers. It was addressed to Lord St. Vincent, dated Vanguard, mouth of the Nile, August 3d.

My Lord,—Almighty God has blessed his Majesty's arms in the late battle by a great victory over the fleet of the enemy, whom I attacked at sun-set, on the 1st of August, off the Mouth of the Nile. The enemy were moored in a strong line of battle for defending the entrance of the Bay (of Shoals), flanked by numerous gun-boats, four frigates, and a battery of guns and mortars on an island in their van; but nothing could withstand the squadron your lordship did me the honour to place under my command. Their high state of discipline is well known to you; and with the judgment of the captains, together with their valour, and that of the officers and men of every description, it was absolutely irresistible. Could any thing from my pen add to the characters of the cap-

tains, I would write it with pleasure, but that is impossible. I have to regret the loss of Captain Westcott, of the *Majestic*, who was killed during the action; but the ship was continued to be so well fought by her first lieutenant, Mr. Cuthbert, that I have given him an order to command her till your Lordship's pleasure is known. The ships of the enemy, all but their two rear ships, are nearly dismasted; and those two, with two of their frigates, I am sorry to say, made their escape; nor was it, I assure you, in my power to prevent them. Captain Hood most handsomely endeavoured to do it; but I had no ship in a condition to support the *Zealous*, and I was obliged to call her in. The support and assistance I have received from Captain Berry cannot be sufficiently expressed. I was wounded in the head, and obliged to be carried off the deck; but the service suffered no loss by that event. Captain Berry was fully equal to the important service then going on; and to him I must beg leave to refer you for every information relative to this victory. He will present you with the flag of the second in command, that of the commander-in-chief being burnt in the *L'Orient*.

“HORATIO NELSON.”

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AUGUST THE SECOND.

Death of William Rufus, 1100.—Battle of Blenheim, 1704.

One day as William Rufus was mounting on horseback, in order to take his customary amusement of the chase, he is said to have been stopped by a monk, who warned him, from some dreams he had had the night before, to abstain from that day's diversion. Rufus, smiling at the man's superstition, ordered that he should be paid for his zeal; but desired him to have more favourable dreams for the future. Thus setting forward, he began the chase, attended by one Walter Tyrrel, a French knight, famous for archery, who always accompanied the prince on those excursions. Towards sunset, they found themselves separated from the rest of the retinue; when the King dis-

mounted either through fatigue, or in expectation of a fresh horse. Just at that time, a stag bounded from a thicket before him, and Rufus drawing his bow, wounded the animal; yet not so mortally but that it fled, while he followed in hopes of seeing it fall. As the setting sun beamed in the King's face, he held his hand up before his eyes, and stood in that posture; when Tyrrel, who had been engaged in the same pursuit, let fly an arrow, which glancing against the trunk of a tree, took a different direction and struck the King to the heart. Rufus instantly dropped down a corpse, while the innocent author of his death, terrified at the accident, putting spurs to his horse, hastening to the sea shore embarked for France, and joined a crusade that was then setting out for Jerusalem. The body of William being discovered by some countrymen who chanced to pass through the forest, was laid in a cart, and conveyed to Winchester, where it was next day interred in the cathedral, without ceremony or any mark of respect. Few lamented the fate of that prince, nor did any of the courtiers attend his obsequies to the grave.

It requires no great art to delineate the character of a monarch whose vices were compensated by scarce one virtue. Rufus was a perfidious, encroaching, and dangerous neighbour; an unkind and ungenerous relation; and a rapacious, as well as a prodigal prince. However, there remain to this day some monuments of his public spirit, as the Tower, Westminster-hall, and London Bridge, were all erected during his reign, being convincing proofs that the treasures of government were not altogether expended in vain. William the Second thus fell in the thirteenth year of his reign, and the fortieth of his age, and having never been married left no legitimate issue. The succession of course devolved upon Robert, his brother, who being then engaged with the crusaders in Palestine, was too far distant to assert his pretensions to the crown of England.

The celebrated Battle of Blenheim was fought, on which occasion a most signal and brilliant victory was gained over the French and Bavarians, who were totally routed

on the banks of the Danube. This success was obtained after the enemy's lines at Schellenberg had been forced by the conduct and bravery of the Duke of Marlborough, who from the period in question, followed up his success by a series of brilliant achievements, that must ever confer honour on the prowess of the British arms.



AUGUST THE THIRD.

Defeat of the Spanish Armada announced to Philip of Spain, 1588.

Camden asserts, that Philip the Second of Spain, received the news of the ill success of his expedition with heroic patience; and that when he heard of the defeat of the Armada, so contrary to his expectations, he thanked God it was no greater. "That he had sent his fleet to fight against the English, and not against the winds." In contradiction to that assertion, however, we are assured by Anthony Copley, an English fugitive then in Spain, that when the intelligence of the disaster reached Philip, he was at mass, and that when the service was concluded, he swore to waste and consume his crown, even to the value of a candlestick, (pointing at one that stood upon the altar) and utterly ruin Elizabeth and England, or else that himself and all Spain should become tributary to her. This latter account certainly appears most conformable with the fiery spirit and superstitious bigotry of the Spanish monarch. Diego Florez de Valdez, who had persuaded the Duke de Medina Celi to disobey the King's instructions, was by his order apprehended, and confined in the castle of St. Andre, after which he was never seen or heard of, and it is probable that the Duke himself would have made a similar exit upon his arrival in Spain, had not his Lady possessed sufficient influence over the King to divert his indignation.

Such was the fate of Philip's boasted Armada, a fate that has proved a salutary and awful lesson to the ambitious powers of the continent, not one of which has since been so hardy as to repeat the attempt.

AUGUST THE FOURTH.

Battle of Evesham, 1265.—Calais surrendered to Edward the Third, 1347.

The Earl of Gloucester had openly declared against the aspiring Montfort, Earl of Leicester, when Prince Edward effected his escape and joined the army of the former nobleman. They then marched to encounter the Barons, when the forces met at Evesham, in Worcestershire, where a sanguinary battle was fought, and Henry the Third set at liberty by his son and the victorious Gloucester. After that conflict, the confederate Barons were greatly persecuted and their estates confiscated, while the city of London, having strenuously supported their cause against the royal authority, was compelled to pay a fine of 20,000 marks.

Edward the Third laid siege to Calais, which was then commanded by John de Vienne, an experienced captain, and supplied with every thing necessary for its defence: when the King aware of the difficulty of taking so strong a town by force, resolved to reduce it by famine. He therefore chose a secure station for his camp, dug entrenchments round the place, and collected every thing requisite to enable his soldiers to endure a winter campaign. Those operations, though slow, were at length successful, as the noble defence made by the governor proved vain, who had excluded all useless mouths from the city, whom Edward generously permitted to pass unmolested through his camp. Calais was at length taken after a twelvemonth's siege, the inhabitants having been reduced to the last extremity by famine and fatigue. The obstinate resistance made by the townsmen was not a little displeasing to Edward, who had often declared, that when put in possession of the place, he would take signal revenge for the numbers of men he had lost during its investment. It was, therefore, with great difficulty the monarch was persuaded to accept of their surrender, and spare their lives upon condition that six of the most considerable citizens should be forwarded to him and disposed

of as he thought fit. On those devoted victims he was resolved to wreak his resentment, and gave orders that they should be led into his camp uncovered and barefooted, with ropes about their necks, as criminals preparing for instant execution. When the news of this obdurate resolution was conveyed into the town, new consternation was spread among the suffering inhabitants respecting the individuals who should be thus offered up as victims to procure the safety of the rest, and by their deaths appease the victor's resentment. In that terrible state of suspense, one of the principal citizens, named Eustace de St. Pierre, stood forward, and offered himself as willing to undergo any tortures that might procure the safety of his fellow-citizens. Five more soon followed his noble example, who, marching out as criminals, laid the keys of their town at Edward's feet, yet no submission was sufficient to appease his resentment, and they would undoubtedly have suffered death, had not the generosity of their conduct affected his Queen Philippa, who generously interceded in their behalf, and with some difficulty obtained a pardon.



AUGUST THE FIFTH.

Henry the First crowned, 1100.—Ruthven's attempt to assassinate James the Sixth, 1600.—Admiral Parker's Engagement off the Dogger Bank, 1781.

Henry the First, fourth and youngest son of William the Conqueror, was born at Selby in Yorkshire, in 1070, and educated at Paris, according to some writers, while others state Cambridge, but in all probability at both those cities; as he became so famous for learning as to acquire the name of *Beauclerc*, or Fair Scholar. On the untimely death of William Rufus, Henry taking advantage of the absence of his elder brother Robert, then in Palestine, seized the treasures of the crown, and then the throne, being inaugurated at Westminster, three days after the death of Rufus. The people had manifested every inclination to welcome this prince for their sovereign, he having been born in England, as stated above, subse-

quent to the coronation of his father as monarch of this kingdom.

The Earls of Mar and Glencairn, Lord Ruthven, recently created Earl of Gowrie; Lord Lindsay, Lord Boyd, the tutor of Glamis, the eldest son of Lord Oliphant, with several barons and gentlemen of distinction entered into a combination against King James the Sixth of Scotland.

On the 5th of August, as King James the First, during the hunting season, in his Palace of Falkland, was going out to join the sport early in the morning, he was accosted by Mr. Alexander Ruthven, who, with an air of great importance, told his Majesty that on the previous evening he had met an unknown man, of a suspicious appearance, walking alone in a bye path near his brother's house at Perth, and on searching him had found beneath his cloak a pot filled with a quantity of foreign gold; that he had immediately seized both him and his treasure, and without communicating the matter to any one had kept him confined in a solitary house, and thought it his duty to impart such a singular event first of all to his Majesty. James immediately suspected this unknown must be a seminary priest, supplied with foreign coin in order to excite new commotions in the kingdom; and therefore resolved to empower the magistrates of Perth to summon the stranger before them and inquire into all the circumstances of the story. Ruthven, however, violently opposed that resolution, and by many arguments urged the King to ride directly to Perth, and examine the matter in person.

At a little distance from the town, the Earl, attended by several of the citizens, met the King, who had only twenty persons in his train. No preparations had been made for the King's entertainment; and the Earl being pensive and embarrassed, appeared to have lost all his courtesy and politeness, and offered no apology for the bad fare offered to his guests. The King's repast ended, his attendants were led to dine in another chamber, when James being left almost alone, Ruthven whis-

pered that the time was arrived to visit the unknown, upon which the King commanded him to summon Sir Thomas Erskine that he might accompany them; but instead of complying, Ruthven objected to his being present, and conducted the King up a staircase, then through several apartments, the doors of which he locked behind him, and ultimately introduced James to a small study, wherein there stood a man clad in armour, with a sword and dagger at his side. The King, who expected to have found one disarmed and bound, started at the sight, and inquired if that was the person; when Ruthven snatching the dagger from the girdle of the man, and holding it to the Monarch's breast, "Remember," said he, "how unjustly my father suffered by your command; you are now my prisoner; submit to my disposal without resistance or outcry, or this dagger shall instantly avenge his blood." James expostulated, entreated, and flattered Ruthven, while the armed man stood all the time trembling and dismayed, without courage either to aid the King or second his aggressor. Ruthven protested that if James gave no alarm his life should be safe; and then, moved by some unknown reason, retired to summon his brother, leaving to the stranger the care of the prince, whom he bound by oath not to make any noise during his absence.

While James was in that dangerous predicament, his attendants growing impatient at his long absence, one of Gowrie's domestics entered the room hastily, stating that the King had just rode away towards Falkland.

The attendants astonished rushed into the street; while the Earl, in the utmost hurry, ordered their horses forth. By that time, however, his brother had returned to James, and swore there was no remedy, for that he must die, and proceeded to bind his hands. Unarmed as the prince was, he scorned to submit to such an indignity, and closing with the assassin, a violent struggle ensued, the man in armour standing as before, amazed and motionless, while the King dragging Ruthven towards a window, which, during his absence, he had persuaded the stranger with whom he was left, to open, cried in loud and affrighted tones—"Treason, treason, help, I am murdered!" The

prince's attendants heard and knew the voice; and at the window was seen a hand grasping the King's neck with violence. The attendants, therefore, flew with precipitation to his assistance; Lennox and Mar, with the greater number proceeding by the principal staircase, who found all the doors fastened, which they battered with the utmost fury, endeavouring to burst them open. Sir John Ramsay, however, entering, mounted by a back staircase which led to the apartment where the King was found, when the door yielding to his touch, he rushed upon Ruthven, who was still struggling with his Majesty, struck him twice with his dagger, and thrust him towards the staircase, where Sir Thomas Erskine and Sir Hugh Herries met and killed him; he crying with the last breath—"Alas, alas, I am not to blame for this action."

During the scuffle, the individual in arms had escaped unobserved, in company with Ramsay, Erskine, and Harris; one Wilson, a footman, had entered the room, and before they had time to close the door, Gowrie presented himself, with a drawn sword in each hand, followed by seven attendants well armed; who with a loud voice threatened them all with instant death. The attendants immediately forced the king into the little study; and shutting the door upon him, returned to encounter the earl. Notwithstanding the inequality of numbers, Sir John Ramsay pierced Gowrie through the heart, who fell down dead without uttering a word, when his followers having received several wounds, immediately fled; three of the king's defenders having been also much hurt in the conflict. A dreadful noise still continued at the opposite door, where many persons laboured in vain to gain admittance, but James being assured that they were Lennox, Mar, and his other friends, the portal was opened on the inside, when they ran to the king, whom they unexpectedly found safe, and hailed with transports of dutiful affection, while the prince, falling on his knees, with his attendants around him, offered solemn thanks to God for such a wonderful deliverance. The danger, however, was not yet over, for the inhabitants of the town, whose provost Gowrie had been, and by whom he was extremely beloved,

hearing the fate of the two brothers, flew to arms, and surrounded the house, threatening revenge, with many opprobrious speeches against the king. James endeavoured to pacify the enraged multitude by speaking to them from the window, when he admitted their magistrate to the house, related the circumstances of the fact, so that their fury subsiding by degrees, they dispersed. On searching the earl's pockets for papers that might discover his designs and accomplices, nothing was found but a small parchment bag, full of magical characters, and words of enchantment; and if we may believe the account of the conspiracy published by the king, "While those documents remained on his person, the wound of which he died did not bleed, but as soon as they were taken from him the blood gushed out in great quantities." However singularly romantic the above narrative may appear, it is no less wonderful, that notwithstanding all the enquiries which were set on foot at the time, and the surmises hazarded by different historians, no clue has been found, nor any feasible reason adduced to account for this most mysterious transaction.

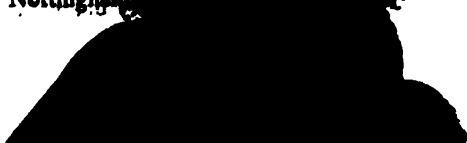
A very obstinate and sanguinary engagement was fought by an English squadron under the command of Admiral Parker, and a Dutch force led by Admiral Zoutman, off the Dogger Bank. This conflict, honourable for both nations, proved so desperate, that after a long contested struggle the disabled fleets separated by mutual consent, neither party claiming the honour of victory.

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**AUGUST THE SIXTH.**

*The Earl of Richmond landed at Milford Haven, 1485.*

Richard the Third finding all attempts to get possession of the Earl of Richmond vain, the latter renewed his preparations for landing in England, in order to assert his claims to the crown. Richard, well aware of the quarter in which he might expect the latter, had taken post at Nottingham, the capital of the kingdom; from



whence he issued commissions to many of his favourites, to oppose the enemy wheresoever he should land. The accounts received of Richmond's preparations did not prove ungrounded, who sailed from Harfleur, in Normandy, with a retinue of 2000 men; and after a voyage of six days, arrived at Milford Haven, in Wales, where he landed without any opposition. Sir Rice ap Thomas and Sir Walter Herbert, who had been commissioned to oppose the Earl in that country, were secretly in his interests; and the one instantly joined Richmond's standard, while the other made no opposition. Having heard the news of that descent, Richard, who possessed personal courage and military acquirements, instantly resolved to encounter his enemy, and decide their mutual pretensions to the throne by a decisive battle. On the other hand, Richmond having been reinforced by Sir Thomas Bouchier, Sir Walter Hungerford, and others to the number of 6000, boldly marched with the same intention; and in a few days both armies drew near Bosworth-field, in the vicinity of Leicester, to end a vindictive contest which had for upwards of forty years filled the realm with civil commotions, and deluged its plains with torrents of English blood.

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AUGUST THE SEVENTH.

The Emperor Napoleon set sail for St. Helena, 1815.

Napoleon Bonaparte, Ex-Emperor of France, having been this day removed from the Bellerophon, commanded by Captain Maitland, to the Northumberland, under the orders of Admiral Sir George Cockburn, set sail for St. Helena, thus closing one of the most extraordinary careers that stands recorded in history, as having attended the fate of a private individual.

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**AUGUST THE EIGHTH.**

*Henry the Eighth espoused Catharine Howard, 1540.*

Henry the Eighth had fixed his attention on Catharine Howard, niece to the Duke of Norfolk, when the only method of gratifying that new passion was, as in former



cases, discarding his then queen in order to make way for a new one. The Duke of Norfolk had long been inimical to Cromwell, Earl of Essex, and therefore eagerly embraced that opportunity of destroying the man whom he regarded as his rival. To effect this, he instructed his niece to use all her arts to accomplish the ruin of the favourite, and when his project was ripe for execution, he obtained a commission from Henry to arrest Cromwell, under an accusation of High Treason; and about a month after the Earl's decapitation, Henry announced his marriage with Catharine Howard, who had been previously espoused to him in private.



#### **AUGUST THE NINTH.**

##### *Funeral of John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, 1722.*

John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, the son of Sir Winston Churchill of Wotton-Basset, in Wiltshire, was descended from an ancient and honourable family, and born at Ashe, in Devonshire, May 24, 1650. He first makes his appearance in the annals of his country in the character of page of honour to James, duke of York. But the native energies of his mind were superior to the uniform, though honourable, employment of a court.

The obsequies of the victorious John Duke of Marlborough were performed with the greatest possible solemnity and magnificence. The body was conveyed from Marlborough House, St. James's, to Westminster Abbey, and placed in Henry the Seventh's Chapel, where an anthem was performed and the burial service read. The corpse was then conveyed to the vault at the foot of King Henry's tomb, the choir singing, "Man that is born of a woman," &c. until it was there deposited. At the conclusion of the service, Garter, King of Arms, proclaimed the titles of the deceased, when his Grace's officers breaking their staves, delivered up the pieces to Garter, who threw them upon the coffin. During the whole ceremony minute guns were discharged at the Tower, and every

demonstration of respect was evinced by the multitude on witnessing the closing scene of the warrior's career, who had effected so much for the glory and prosperity of the English crown.

Burnet, speaking of the Duke of Marlborough, says, "He was a man of a noble and graceful appearance, bred up in the court with no literature; but he had a solid and clear understanding, with a constant presence of mind. He knew the arts of living in a court beyond very many in it; he caressed all people with a soft and obliging deportment, and was always ready to do good offices. He had no fortune to set up on: this put him upon the methods of acquiring one; and that went so far into him, that he did not shake it off when he was in a much higher elevation; nor were his expenses suited enough to his posts. But when allowances are made for that, it must be acknowledged that he is one of the greatest men the age has produced.

"He was in high favour with the army, but his lady was much more in Princess Anne's favour. She had an ascendant over her in every thing. She was a woman of little knowledge, but of a clear apprehension and a true judgment; a warm and hearty friend, violent and sudden in her resolutions, and impetuous in her way of speaking. She was thought proud and insolent in her favour, though she used none of the common arts of a court to maintain it; for she did not beset the princess nor flattered her. She staid much at home, and looked very carefully after the education of her children."

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AUGUST THE TENTH.

*William King of Scotland freed from Captivity, 1174.
—The City of Newcastle invested, 1644.—Colonel
Lilburne committed to Newgate, 1645.—Death of
Queen Henrietta Maria, 1669.*

William, King of Scotland, and his brother David, did homage to King Henry the Second, for all the territories they held in Scotland and Galway, at the same time swear-

ing allegiance to the English monarch and his son Henry. The same oath was also tendered to the bishops and abbots of Scotland, who undertook to continue in subjection to the English Church; the nobility and barons of that kingdom equally swearing allegiance and fealty to the English crown. On the confirmation of that agreement, the Scottish monarch and his brother surrendered up the castles of Berwick, Roxburgh, Gedworth, Edinburgh, and Stirling, as security for the strict performance of the treaty on the part of William and the peers of the kingdom.

The Earl of Calendar, with 10,000 Scotch troops, invested Newcastle, and the Earl of Manchester made himself master of Sheffield castle.

Lieutenant Colonel Lilburne was committed to Newgate, for having written and published a seditious work enquiring into the authority of the then existing powers.

Henrietta-Maria, Queen Dowager of Charles the First, died at St. Columbe, near Paris, in the 60th year of her age, and was interred at St. Denis, on the 7th of November following.

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**AUGUST THE ELEVENTH.**

*Prince Rupert defeated the Dutch, 1673.*

A third victory was this day obtained over the Dutch by Prince Rupert; but in consequence of the French squadron remaining neuter during the latter part of the action, the success did not prove so complete as it would otherwise have been. In that conflict the brave Sir Edward Spragge, Admiral of the Blue, was drowned while removing from his own ship on board the Royal Charles, the barge being sunk by a cannon shot after Sir Edward had behaved in the most gallant manner. The loss of the Dutch in this engagement amounted to two flag officers and upwards of a thousand men.

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**AUGUST TEN TWELFTH.**

*Gowrie's Conspiracy, or the Raid of Ruthven, 1582.—  
The Birth of his present Majesty George the  
Fourth, 1762.—Havannah surrendered, 1762.*

At the period in question, King James after having resided some time in Athol, where he enjoyed his favourite amusement of hunting, was on his return towards Edinburgh with a small train, invited to Ruthven Castle, which lay in his way, when he, suspecting no danger, repaired thither in search of farther sport. The multitude of strangers, however, there assembled, gave him some uneasiness; and as those who were in the secret arrived every moment from different parts, the appearance of so many new faces, increased the monarch's fears, who notwithstanding concealed his suspicions, and next morning prepared for the field, expecting to find an opportunity of effecting his escape. When on the point of setting forward, the nobles entered James's bed-chamber in a body, and presented a memorial against the illegal and oppressive actions of his two favourites, whom they represented as most dangerous enemies to the religion and liberties of the nation. The King, though he received that remonstrance with the complaisance necessary in his then perilous situation, was extremely impatient to be gone; but, as he approached the door, the tutor of Glamis rudely stopt him, when James expostulated and threatened, but finding such conduct productive of no good effect, he burst into tears—"No matter," said Glamis, fiercely; "better that children should weep than bearded men." Those words made a deep impression on the King's mind, and were never forgotten. The conspirators, regardless of the prince's emotion, then dismissed such of his followers as they suspected, allowing none but persons of their own party to have access to him; and though they treated him with great respect, his person was guarded with the utmost care, that enterprize being usually called by the Scotch historians the *Raid of Ruthven*.

Lennox and Arran, the favourites complained of, were

astonished at an event so unlooked for, and fatal to their power, and the latter mounting on horseback, with a few followers, set forwards for Ruthven Castle. On beholding a man so odious to his country, the conspirators rose, and instant death must have been the result of Arran's rashness, had not the friendship of Gowrie, or some other hidden cause, not mentioned by historians, saved a life so pernicious to the realm of Scotland. He was, however, confined to the castle of Stirling, without being admitted to the King's presence.

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George Prince of Wales (his present gracious and beloved Majesty, fourth Monarch of that name) was born this day.


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The Havannah capitulated to the forces of Great Britain.

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AUGUST THE THIRTEENTH.

The Duke of Buckingham stabbed by Felton, 1628.

John Felton, according to Lord Clarendon, was an obscure man in his own person, who had been bred a soldier, and latterly served as lieutenant of a foot company, whose captain having been killed on the retreat from the Isle of Rhee, he conceived that the company of right ought to have been conferred upon him. On being refused by the Duke of Buckingham, general in chief, Felton resigned his commission and withdrew from the army in disgust. He was of a melancholy nature, and held little conversation with any one, but was of a gentleman's family in Suffolk of considerable wealth and reputation. On quitting the army Felton resided in London, at a period when the House of Commons, transported by passion and prejudice against Buckingham, accused him to the House of Peers of several misdemeanors, and in one particular declaration styled him the cause of all the evils the kingdom had suffered, as well as an enemy to the public. Some transcripts of those expressions, fomented by the vehement and general invectives of popular preachers in the city, so



wrought upon the mind of Felton, that by degrees he conceived he should do God service if he assassinated the Duke, which act he shortly after resolved to perpetrate.

The murderer chose no other instrument wherewith to commit the deed but a common knife, which he bought of a cutler for a shilling; and thus provided, repaired to Portsmouth, where he arrived on the eve of St. Bartholomew. The Duke was there at the time in question, for the purpose of superintending the fleet, and the army, with which he was in a few days to transport himself for the relief of Rochelle, then closely besieged by Cardinal Richelieu. Buckingham had received some letters on St. Bartholomew's day, in which he was advertised that Rochelle had relieved itself; when he directed that his breakfast might be speedily got ready, as he was anxious to acquaint the King with the good news, the Court being then at Southwick, at the House of Sir Daniel Norton, only five miles from Portsmouth. The chamber wherein the Duke was then dressing himself was full of company, consisting of persons of quality and officers of the fleet and army.

The Duke being ready, and informed that breakfast was served, drew towards the door, the hangings of which were held up, and when in the passage, turning to speak to Sir Thomas Fryer, a Colonel in the army, then close to him, he was suddenly struck over that officer's shoulder, on the breast with a knife, upon which, without uttering any other words than, "*The villain hath killed me;*" and, pulling out the knife with his own hands, he dropped down dead. No man had perceived the blow given or the person who inflicted it, but in the confusion every one indulged his own conjectures.

Among the crowd near the door was found a hat, in the inside of which a paper was affixed, with four or five lines written, containing the declaration made by the House of Commons, wherein the Duke had been styled an enemy to the kingdom, and under the same was a short ejaculation in form of a prayer. It was, therefore, concluded, that the hat belonged to the assassin, but the difficulty still remained of ascertaining who the person might be.

In this state of incertitude, a man was observed walking very composedly without a hat, upon which some one exclaiming, "Here is the fellow who killed the Duke;" he immediately made answer, "I am he!"

The crowd would have sacrificed the murderer upon the spot, but he was quickly carried into a private room, and soon recognised to be the Felton before mentioned.

Some persons high in authority conceived it best to dissemble, and therefore remarked, that although badly wounded there were still hopes of the Duke's recovery. Felton, however, smiled, remarking that he knew well enough he had inflicted a blow that had determined all his hopes. The assassin having undergone his trial was condemned to death, and on the 19th of November following suffered at Tyburn for his crime, and was then hanged in chains.

The Duke of Buckingham, says our authority, possessed a noble nature, was of a generous disposition and boasted endowments, that rendered him a great favourite with the deceased James and his then master Charles the First. He understood the arts of a court, and all the learning professed there. He was quick and clever in state business, and displayed the art of speaking with dignity and fitness to the purport. He was affable and courteous, and so willing to oblige all who solicited favours, that he frequently did not sufficiently consider the value of the obligation or the merits of those whom he obliged. He possessed undaunted courage which was manifested in all his actions, as he exposed himself to the greatest dangers.

He was steady to a degree of enthusiasm in his friendship, and an enemy to the same excess; but never strove to do a man an ill office, till he had first told him what he had to expect.

"If the Duke," adds Clarendon, "cherished immoderate ambition, and it is a weed which is apt to grow in the best soils, it does not appear that it was in his nature, or that he brought it with him to court; but rather found it there, and was a garment necessary for that air. Nor was it more in his power to be without promotion, titles,

and wealth, than for a healthy man to sit in the sun, in the brightest dog days, and remain without warmth. He needed no ambition who was so seated in the hearts of two such masters."

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**AUGUST THE FOURTEENTH.**

*Drogheda taken by storm, 1649.*

Oliver Cromwell having been appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, made himself master of Drogheda by storm, when he put the whole garrison, consisting of 3,000 men, to the sword; being for the most part English. So summary was the slaughter, that it is affirmed only one lieutenant escaped; added to which, every man, woman, and child of the citizens who were Irish, equally fell sacrifices to the fury of the conquerors.

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AUGUST THE FIFTEENTH.

Waterford captured by Earl Strongbow, 1169.

The history of the first expedition of the English to Ireland, is briefly this: In the reign of King Henry the Second, Dermot Fitzmurchard, commonly called Mac Morrogh, Prince of Leinster, a man cruel and oppressive, after many battles with other princes of Ireland, being beaten and put to flight, applied for relief to Henry the second of England, then in Aquitaine. The king, at that period was not in such circumstances as to afford Mac Morrogh much assistance; however, he by letters patent granted licence to all his subjects throughout his dominions to assist him to recover his territories. Those letters are to be found in Geraldus Cambrensis, who was historiographer and secretary to Henry the Second, and accompanied him in his expedition to Ireland, from whom we derive this relation. The Irish prince conveyed his letters patent to England, and caused them to be read in presence of many people, beating up, as it were, for volunteers and free adventurers to proceed for Ireland. At length, Richard, Earl of Strigul (now

Chepstow, in Monmouthshire), son of Earl Gilbert, surnamed Strongbow, offered to assist him in the recovery of his country, on condition that Dermot would give him his eldest daughter in marriage, and his kingdom of Leinster after his decease. About the same time, Robert Fitz Stephen, Governor of Aberlepie, in Wales, also agreed to help Dermot, on condition that he would grant him and Maurice Fitzgerald, in fee, the city of Wexford, with two cantreds or hundreds of land nearly adjoining.

Those adventurers in consequence set forward, and having landed, subdued Waterford this day, and proved successful in treating with the Irish, making themselves equally masters of Dublin, Wexford, and other towns. Earl Richard Strongbow then espoused Dermot's daughter, and according to the compact entered into, succeeded his father-in-law as prince of the kingdom of Leinster.



AUGUST THE SIXTEENTH.

The Dutch Fleet surrendered to Admiral Elphinstone, 1796.

The whole Dutch Fleet surrendered to Admiral Elphinstone, consisting of three line-of-battle ships, five frigates and sloops, and a store ship; which capture took place at the entrance of Saldanah Bay, near the Cape of Good Hope.



AUGUST THE SEVENTEENTH.

Death of Admiral Blake, 1657.

Never was the national glory of England more firmly established among foreign nations, than during the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell, who assumed the most absolute tone, and always spoke his opinions without disguise. Awed by no rank, and proof against all intrigues, the Protector dictated to, rather than negotiated with foreign powers, and inspired his commanders with a portion of his own resolution and decision of conduct, who fought with a determination to conquer or die.



Among the heroes that figured under the Protectorate, was Admiral Blake, a name immortal on the page of English history; for however high we had stood at former periods in maritime superiority, he exalted us still more by his consummate talent, and personal intrepidity. Robert Blake was a native of Bridgewater, in Somersetshire, and initiated in the rudiments of classical knowledge at the grammar school of that town; after which he studied at Alban Hall, and then Wadham College, Oxford. Having been early tinctured with republican principles, and prejudiced against the church establishment owing to the severity of his diocesan, Laud, Blake adopted Puritanical principles, and was elected to Parliament for his native borough in 1640. Blake, three years after (1643), was intrusted with the command of a small fort at Bristol, under Colonel Fiennes, on which occasion he defended his own particular post, though Prince Rupert had carried the place by capitulation, and in those encounters many of the royalists perished. This conduct exasperated the prince to such a pitch, that he threatened to hang Blake, being only prevented on perceiving that his conduct had solely originated in a palpable ignorance respecting the laws of war. Blake subsequently served in Somersetshire, where he surprised Taunton, in conjunction with Sir Robert Pye, and was appointed commander of that place, being then one of the most important garrisons in the west.

Such attachment to the popular side did not however injure this hero's sense of right and wrong, for he declared against the legality of Charles's trial, and frequently asserted his willingness to hazard his life, in order to be instrumental in saving that of the king. Until this period, Blake had only signalized himself in a military capacity, when his destiny led him to triumph on a new element, as in 1649 he was appointed to command the fleet with Dean and Popham, who blocked up Rupert in the harbour of Kinsale, from which port however, the prince desperately effected his escape, with the loss of three ships.

From that time a series of the most extraordinary suc-

cesses attended the naval career of Admiral Blake against the Spaniards and Dutch under the renowned Tromp, which engagements being adverted to under the different days in our work upon which they took place, it would be superfluous to recapitulate in this memoir. Speaking of the almost incredible success attending Blake's attempt at Santa Cruz, Lord Clarendon says, "It was so miraculous, that all men who knew the place wondered how any sober man, with what courage soever endowed, would ever have undertaken it, and they could hardly persuade themselves to believe what they had done; whilst the Spaniards comforted themselves with the reflection, that they (the English), were devils, and not men, who had accomplished such things." At length, finding his constitution attacked by a complication of the dropsy and scurvy, the love of his native soil prompted Blake to steer for England, hastening his voyage as much as possible; in this desire, however, fortune was not propitious, for though the Admiral frequently enquired for land, he did not live to disembark, as he expired when the fleet was entering Plymouth this 17th day of August, 1657, in his 58th year.

Cromwell commanded a pompous funeral for this magnanimous hero at the public expence; but the tears and regrets of his countrymen were the most honourable eulogy to his memory. Never was any man who had devoted himself to a usurper, so much respected by those of opposite principles. Disinterested, generous, and liberal; ambitious but of true glory, and terrible only to the enemies of his country, Blake forms one of the most perfect characters of that age, and the least stained with any vice or meanness. Clarendon observes, "that he was the first man who brought ships to despise castles on shore, which had been thought very formidable, but were found by him to be more alarming than really dangerous. He was also the first who infused such resolution into seamen, as made them attempt whatsoever was possible: and the first who taught them to fight, either in fire or water." In short, Blake was the Nelson and the Sidney Smith of his day, proving, that to dare

every thing is generally to command success. Few things indeed are impracticable to him that feels a well grounded confidence in his own power and is not diverted from his object, by any seeming difficulties, nor allured from perseverance by the blandishments of ease.

After the restoration, the remains of this astonishing character, were, by the express command of Charles the Second, removed from the vault wherein they had been deposited in Westminster Abbey; and ignobly thrown with others into a pit in St. Margaret's church-yard; "In which place," says one of his biographers, "they now remain without any monument but that reared by his valour, which time itself can hardly ever efface."

AUGUST THE EIGHTEENTH.

Empsom and Dudley executed, 1510.—Lords Balmerino and Kilmarnock beheaded, 1746.—Admiral Boscawen, victorious at Gibraltar, 1759.

Henry the Eighth caused Empsom and Dudley, the vile instruments of his deceased father's extortions to be committed and executed as traitors. Those enormous sums, which had been hoarded up during the preceding reign being squandered away profusely in the first years of that of the successor, while little or no satisfaction was received by those from whom wealth had been received by such illegal and rapacious means.

William, Earl of Kilmarnock, and Arthur, Lord Balmerino, were this day executed for high treason on Tower-hill. They suffered the sentence awarded them with great firmness, the former being decapitated at one blow, while the latter, from his uncommon firmness and intrepidity, so much astonished the executioner, that he did not strike sufficiently hard to effect the purpose, upon which the unfortunate sufferer, in that mangled state, turned his head towards the man, while his teeth were observed to gnash; a second stroke, however, rendered his lordship insensible, and a third severed the head from his body.

Admiral Boscawen defeated the French Fleet off Gibraltar.



AUGUST THE NINETEENTH.

*Richard the Second seized by Bolingbroke, 1399 —
Battle of the Spurs, 1513.*

King Richard the Second, who had been conducted to Chester the preceding day, by the Duke of Northumberland, observing his rival approach from the walls, went down to receive him; while the Earl of Hereford, after some ceremony, entered the castle in complete armour, his head only being bared in compliment to the fallen king. The monarch received him with that open air for which he had been so remarkable, and kindly bade him welcome. "My lord the king," returned the earl, with a cool respectful bow, "I am come sooner than you appointed; because your people say that for one-and-twenty years you have governed with rigour and indiscretion. They are very ill satisfied with your conduct; but if it so please God, I will help you to govern them better for the time to come." To this declaration the king returned no other answer, but "Fair cousin, if it pleases you it pleases me also." Hereford's haughty answer, however, was not the only mortification the unfortunate Richard was doomed to encounter. After a short conversation with some of the king's attendants, the earl ordered the monarch's horses to be brought out of the stable, when two wretched animals being produced, the king mounted one, and his favourite, the Earl of Salisbury, the other, with which mean equipage they rode through Chester, and were conveyed to the castle amidst the clangor of trumpets, and a vast concourse of people, being scoffed at by the multitude who spoke in favour of the king's rival, repeatedly shouting "Long live the good Duke of Lancaster, our deliverer;" as for the king, to use the words of the poet, "None cried God bless him." Thus, after repeated indignities, Richard was confined a close prisoner in the Tower, where, if possible, he endured a still greater variety of studied insolence and flagrant contempt.

The Duke de Longueville advanced with an army to the relief of Terouenne, who was encountered by Henry the Eighth at Guigegate, where a battle was fought this day, in which the English gained an easy victory, and as the French cavalry, seized by a panic, made use of their spurs rather than their swords, that conflict was called *the battle of the spurs*. The populous city of Tournay was soon after invested and surrendered, the citizens agreeing to pay 50,000 crowns immediately, 4,000 livres annually for ten years, and admit an English garrison.

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**AUGUST THE TWENTIETH.**

*Nuptials of James the First and Anne of Denmark,*  
1590.

King James the Sixth of Scotland, through the recommendation of Queen Elizabeth, espoused Anne, daughter of Frederick the Second, King of Denmark and Norway, in the sixteenth year of her age; subsequent to which, James continued on amicable terms with the Queen of England, in order to secure his succession to the British throne.

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AUGUST THE TWENTY-FIRST.

Mary Queen of Scotland arrived in that country, 1560
—*Battle of Viemera, 1808.*

Upon the death of Francis the Second, Mary his widow still seemed desirous of keeping up the title, but finding herself exposed to the persecutions of the queen dowager, Catherine de Medicis, who then began to take the lead in France, she determined to return to Scotland, and for that purpose demanded a safe passage from Elizabeth through England, which the latter refused, sending back a very haughty answer to Mary's request. From that time a determined personal enmity prevailed between those rival queens, which subsisted for many years, until at length the superior good fortune of Eliza-

both had the ascendancy, and Mary on the scaffold closed a life of bitterness and constant suffering.

At the battle of Viemera, the whole of the French forces in Portugal were employed, under the command of the Duke d'Abrantes (Junot), in person, on which occasion the enemy was certainly superior in cavalry and artillery, while not more than one half the British army was actually engaged. The French there sustained a signal defeat, losing thirteen pieces of cannon, twenty-three ammunition waggons, with powder, shells, stores of all descriptions, and twenty thousand rounds of musket ammunition. General Bessiere was wounded and taken, many officers and soldiers being also killed and made prisoners.

AUGUST THE TWENTY-SECOND.

Battle of the Standard, 1138.—Death of Richard III. 1485.—Landing and capture of Long Island, 1776.—The French landed in Ireland, 1798.

David King of Scotland having invaded England, King Stephen found himself obliged to return from Normandy; when the battle of the Standard was this day fought, in which the Scotch sustained a signal defeat.

The armies of King Richard the Third and the Earl of Richmond, encountered on Bosworth field, in the vicinity of Leicester, where the battle began with a shower of arrows, and the adverse fronts speedily closed in furious conflict. This was what Lord Stanley had for some time anticipated, who immediately profiting by the occasion, joined the forces of Richmond, and thus turned the fortune of the day. This measure, so unexpected by the men, though not to the leader, produced a proportioned effect on both armies; inspiring unusual courage in Henry's soldiers, and throwing his adversaries lines into confusion. The intrepid Richard, perceiving the danger of his situation, spurred his horse and plunged into the thickest of the fight; while Richmond quitted

his station in the rear, to encourage his troops by his presence at their front. Richard having descried his opponent, was desirous of ending all by one decisive blow, and with irresistible fury rode through thousands to attack him; in which attempt, he slew Sir William Brandon, the Earl's standard-bearer. Sir John Chene having taken Brandon's place, was thrown by Richard to the ground, Richmond standing firm to oppose him, they were however separated by the crowd. Richard thus disappointed, inspired his troops in another quarter: but at length, perceiving his army was every where yielding or flying, he rushed with a loud shout into the midst of the enemy, and there met his death covered by wounds. After the battle, King Richard's body was found stripped among a heap of the slain, the eyes frightfully staring; in which situation, being thrown across a horse, it was carried to Leicester and there buried without any ceremonial.

Richard's crown being found by one of Henry's soldiers on the field of battle, the same was immediately placed upon the head of the conqueror, while the whole army, as if inspired with one voice, cried out, "Long live King Henry."

A French force consisting of between seven and eight hundred men, under the command of General Humbert, landed on the north-west coast of Ireland, having a great quantity of arms, when he possessed himself of the town of Killala, making the Bishop of that see, a detachment of the then Prince of Wales' fencible regiment, and some yeomen, prisoners.

The forces of Charlestown, with a few regiments from Florida and the West Indies, arrived, when all the troops, except one-half of the Hessians, being in readiness, an attempt on Long Island was determined upon. Measures were then taken to cover the landing, which took place this 22nd of August, when they were stationed on the south-west end of the island, nearest to Staten Island.

At this time the American general, Putnam, was encamped with a strong force at Brickland, a few miles to the north, where his works covered the breadth of a small peninsula, with the East River on his left, a marsh on his right, with the bay and Governor's Island in his rear. A range of hills covered with wood, called the Heights of Gunca, separated the two armies. The direct road to the enemy was through a village called Flat Bush, about the centre of the heights. Putnam dispatched a considerable force to possess the hills and passes; and had the officers acted with dexterity and firmness, the advance of our troops would have been difficult.

The necessary preparations being made, General Clinton, at the head of the van, Lord Cornwallis with the reserve, and the other troops, with fourteen field-pieces, as soon as it was dark, moved forward over the hills; when they perceived a pass which had been neglected by the enemy. The way being thus fortunately cleared, the whole army traversed the hills without noise or interruption, and descended into the plain which lay between them and Putnam's army.

The engagement commenced in the morning, which was eagerly supported on both sides. The ships, in the meantime, attacked several batteries, and were of essential service. The enemy were at last surrounded on all sides, and routed with great slaughter: their loss was about 3000 including 1000 prisoners. The loss of the British amounted to 350 killed and wounded.

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AUGUST THE TWENTY-THIRD.

*Death of William Wallace, the Hero of Scotland, 1305.—Pondicherry taken, 1793.—Capture of Surinam, 1799.*

There seemed to remain only one obstacle to the final destruction of the Scottish monarchy, and that was in the person of William Wallace, who still continued refractory; wandering with a few forces from mountain to mountain, still preserving his national independence

and usual good fortune. But even the public hopes entertained from him were speedily disappointed, Wallace being betrayed into the hands of Edward the First, by Sir John Monteith, his friend, whom he had made acquainted with the place of his concealment, and by that traitor he was surprised as he lay asleep in the neighbourhood of Glasgow. The English monarch willing to strike the Scots with an example of severity, ordered that brave defender of his country to be conducted in chains to London, whither he was carried amidst infinite crowds of spectators, flocking to behold a man who had often filled the whole country with consternation.

On the day subsequent to his arrival, Wallace was brought to trial in Westminster Hall, on which occasion he was placed upon a high chair, and crowned with laurel in derision. Being accused of various imputed crimes, he pleaded not guilty, and refused to own the jurisdiction of the court; affirming that it was equally unjust and absurd to charge him with treason against a prince, whose title he had never acknowledged; and as he was born under the laws of another country, it was equally cruel and iniquitous to try him by those to which he was a stranger. The judges, however, disregarded that defence, for considering Edward as the immediate sovereign of Scotland, they found him guilty of high treason, and Wallace was condemned to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. That abominable sentence took place in Smithfield, being performed with the most remorseless cruelty, when his head and body were divided and exposed in different cities throughout England.

Such was the wretched fate of one of the bravest men that ever graced the Scottish annals, who, through a long course of years, had defended his native land against the unjust pretensions of an ambitious and fortunate invader.

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Pondicherry surrendered to Colonel Braithwaite; and the Dutch settlement of Surinam was subjected to the British arms.

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AUGUST THE TWENTY-FOURTH.

Battle of Cressy, 1346.—Surrender of the Town of Washington, 1814.

About three in the afternoon, the famous battle of Cressy began by the French King's ordering the Genoese archers to charge; but being greatly fatigued by their march, they cried out for a little rest before they began the engagement. The Count of Alençon being informed of their petition, rode up and reviled them for cowards, commanding that they should commence the onset without delay. This reluctance to begin was increased by a heavy shower which happened to fall, and relaxed their bow strings; so that the discharge produced little effect. On the other side, the English archers, who had kept their bows in cases, being favoured by a gleam of sunshine that rather dazzled the enemy, let fly their arrows so thick, that nothing was to be seen among the Genoese but hurry, terror, and dismay. The young Prince of Wales had presence of mind to take advantage of their confusion, and lead on his line to the charge. The French cavalry, however, commanded by the Count of Alençon, wheeling round sustained the combat, and began to hem the English round. The Earls of Arundel and Northampton then rode up to assist the Prince who was foremost in the charge, and wherever he appeared turned the fortune of the day. That gallant youth was in the thickest of the battle, and the valour of a boy filled even veterans with astonishment; their surprise at his courage being, however, equalled by their apprehensions for his safety. Dreading least some misfortune should befall him, an officer was dispatched to the King, desiring that succours might be sent to the prince's relief. Edward the Third, who had beheld the engagement in perfect tranquility, demanded, with seeming deliberation, if his son was dead; when being informed that he still lived, and was displaying astonishing instances of valour. "Then tell my generals," cried the King, "that he shall have no assistance from : the honour of this day shall be his; let him show

himself worthy the profession of arms, and be indebted to his own merit alone for victory." That speech having been reported to the Prince and his attendants, inspired them with new courage, when they made a fresh attack upon the French cavalry, and the Count of Alençon, their bravest commander, was killed. That catastrophe proved the commencement of the enemy's overthrow, as the French being then without a competent leader, were thrown into confusion, when the Welsh infantry rushing into the midst of the conflict, dispatched those with their long knives, who had survived the fury of the former onset. It was in vain the King of France, in person, seemed singly to maintain the combat; endeavoured to animate his few followers, both by his voice and example; the victory proved too decisive to be resisted, and while he was yet endeavouring to face the enemy, John de Hainault seized the reins of his horse, and turning the charger round, forced the Monarch from the field of battle. In that memorable conflict, thirty thousand of the enemy were killed, among whom was John, King of Bohemia; James, King of Majorca; Ralph, Duke of Lorraine, nine counts, four-and-twenty bannerets, twelve hundred knights, fifteen hundred gentlemen, and four thousand men of arms. There is something remarkable in the fate of the Bohemian monarch; who, though blind, was yet willing to share in the engagement. That unfortunate prince, enquiring the fate of the day, was told that all was lost, and his son Charles obliged to retire desperately wounded, while the Prince of Wales bore down every thing before him. Having received that information, he commanded his knights to lead him into the thickest of the battle, where they were all immediately killed.

The whole French forces then took to flight, and were slaughtered by their pursuers without mercy, till night stopped the carnage. King Edward on his return to the camp, flew into the arms of his son, exclaiming, "My valiant boy, continue as you have began; you have acquitted yourself nobly, and are worthy of the kingdom

that will be your inheritance." The next morning being foggy, part of the militia of Rouen having marched to join the French army, was routed by the English at the first onset; while many more being decoyed by some French standards, which the victors placed upon an eminence, and to which the fugitives resorted, they were cut in pieces without mercy.

Never was conquest more seasonable, or less bloody to the victors, than that of Cressy; as notwithstanding the great slaughter of the enemy, the English only lost one esquire, three knights, and a few men of inferior rank. The crest of the King of Bohemia was three ostrich feathers, with this motto, *Ich Dien*, signifying in the German language, *I serve*, which being deemed a proper prize to celebrate the victory, was added to the arms of the Prince of Wales, and has been adopted by all his successors.

The city of Washington, capital of the United States of America, was captured by the British; when its public buildings, naval arsenal, &c. were completely destroyed.

AUGUST THE TWENTY-FIFTH.

Proceedings of Charles the First at Nottingham, 1642

On the 22nd instant, Charles the First having raised the royal standard at Nottingham, this day dispatched a message from that town to both Houses of Parliament, interceding for peace, which was however received with scorn. The document in question was conveyed by the Earl of Southampton and Sir John Colepeper, who took their seats in the house for delivering the same; they were, however, directed to present it at the bar, and await for an answer without the walls of London. In this manner, three several messages passed between the King and the Parliament, but without producing the beneficial result intended.

AUGUST THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

Julius Cæsar first landed in Britain, 55 years before Christ.

Caius Julius Cæsar this day effected his first descent on the island of Britain, and in the evening took up his quarters at Dover, the first conflict immediately after taking place near Deal. The Romans found this country divided into several petty kingdoms or principalities, which united however under Cassibelan to oppose the invaders.

AUGUST THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.

Kett the rebel defeated and executed, 1549.—Algiers bombarded by Lord Exmouth, 1816.

During the short reign of the pious Edward the Sixth, several rebellions broke out respecting inclosures, among which, that of most consequence manifested itself in Norfolk, under the command of Kett, a tanner, against whom Dudley and the Earl of Warwick were dispatched; and on the present day encountered and slew upwards of 2,000 of his followers; Kett himself being captured and hung in chains on the top of Norwich castle, the 20th of November following.

Lord Exmouth having bombarded Algiers, and completely destroyed the arsenal and fleets of those barbarians, the Dey found himself compelled to ratify a treaty with the English, the leading clause of which stipulated the entire abolition of Christian slavery throughout the Algerine states.

AUGUST THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.

Toulon surrendered to the British, 1793.

Toulon surrendered to the British Admiral Lord Hood, who took possession both of the town and shipping in the name of Louis the XVII. under the express and positive stipulation, that he should assist in restoring the constitution of 1789.

AUGUST THE TWENTY-NINTH.*Capture of the Dutch Fleet, 1799.*

Admiral Mitchell having rendered himself master of the Helder, took the whole Dutch fleet then laying in the Texel, an event that proved of the greatest consequence in preserving the maritime preponderance of Great Britain against France and the Northern Powers, then confederated against her.

**AUGUST THE THIRTIETH.**

Richard the Second appointed Guardian of the Kingdom, 1377.—Henry the Eighth excommunicated, 1535.

Richard surnamed of Bourdeaux, son of Edward the Black Prince, was declared heir to the English crown, by his grand-father Edward the Third, and created Prince of Wales.



The Bull of excommunication was this day fulminated by Pope Paul the Third, against King Henry the Eighth, when the latter determined to throw off the mask, and immediately issued his edict for the suppression of all monastic orders, at the same time directing that they should be visited with the severest scrutiny possible.

**AUGUST THE THIRTY-FIRST.***Death of Henry the Fifth, 1422.*

Henry the Fifth, at a time when his glory had nearly attained its acme, as the crowns of England and France had devolved upon him, was seized with a fistula; a disorder, which from the unskilfulness of the physicians at that period, soon proved mortal. Perceiving that his distemper was incurable, and his end approaching, he sent for his brother the Duke of Bedford, the Earl of Warwick, and a few other noblemen, whom he had honoured with his confidence, and to them delivered,

with great tranquillity, his last will, in regard to the government of his kingdom and family. The prince recommended his son to their care, and though he regretted being unable to accomplish the great object of his ambition in totally subduing France, he nevertheless expressed great indifference at the approach of death; and devoutly waiting its arrival, expired with the same intrepidity with which he had lived, in the thirty-fourth year of his age, and the tenth of his reign.

This monarch possessed many virtues, but his military success gave him credit for more than he really deserved. It is certain, however, that he had the talent of attaching his friends by affability, and of gaining his enemies by address and clemency. Yet his reign was rather splendid than profitable, as the treasures of the nation were lavished on conquests, which, if maintainable, would have proved injurious to the kingdom. Henry's death was nevertheless fortunate, since he fell in the midst of his triumphs, leaving his subjects in the very height of his reputation. Charles the Sixth of France, died two months after him, terminating a wretched reign, despised by his friends, insulted by his allies, and leaving his people the most miserable race then existing. Henry left by his queen, Catherine of France, only one son, not having attained his ninth month, whose misfortunes, during the course of a long reign, far surpassed all the glories and successes of his renowned father.

The English triumphs at that period in France, produced scarcely any good results to the mother country, for as the people grew warlike, they became savage, and panting after foreign possessions forgot the art of cultivating refinements at home. Our language, instead of improving, was more neglected than before; Langland and Chaucer had begun to polish and enrich it with new and elegant constructions; but it was then found to relapse into its former rudeness, nor was there any poet or historian of note born during that tempestuous period.

SEPTEMBER THE FIRST.

Richard II. resigned his crown, 1399.

Being committed to the Tower, the unfortunate King Richard the Second, thus humiliated, began to lose the pride of a monarch with the splendour of royalty, and his spirits sunk to a level with his circumstances. There was no great difficulty, therefore, in inducing him to sign a resignation, a deed by which he renounced the crown, as being unqualified for governing the kingdom. Upon that document, forcibly obtained, the Earl of Hereford founded his principal claim; but willing to fortify such pretensions with every appearance of justice, he summoned a parliament, which was readily brought to approve and confirm his plea; and a frivolous charge containing thirty-three articles was drawn up, and pronounced valid against the King, who was then solemnly deposed, and Bolingbroke elected in his stead, by the title of Henry the Fourth. Thus began the fatal contest between the houses of York and Lancaster; which for a series of years deluged the kingdom with blood; notwithstanding which, its results contributed to settle and confirm the constitution of this realm.

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**SEPTEMBER THE SECOND.**

*The Fire of London, 1666.*

This terrible fire broke out where the Monument now stands, and destroyed in the space of four days, eighty-nine churches, among which were the cathedral of St. Paul's, the city gates, the Royal Exchange, Custom-house, Guildhall, Sion college, and many other public edifices, hospitals, schools, libraries; a vast number of stately mansions, 13,200 dwelling-houses, and in all 400 streets.

The ruins of the city extended over a surface of 436 acres, being from the Tower along the Thames side, to the Temple church; and from the north east gate, along the city wall to Holborn-bridge, or Fleet-ditch. Dur-

ing that dreadful conflagration, the King, the Duke of York, and many of the nobility, and ministers of state, used their utmost endeavours to prevent the flames from spreading; they also visited the different districts that were burning, twice a day, during many hours, proceeding together sometimes on horseback, and at others on foot, issuing orders for pursuing the work by commands, threats, and offers of reward, while Charles the Second freely distributed gifts to the workmen with his own hand.

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SEPTEMBER THE THIRD.

*Coronation of Richard the First, 1189.—Battle of Dunbar, 1650.—Battle of Worcester, 1651.—Death of Oliver Cromwell, 1658.*

Richard the First, surnamed Cœur de Lion, was solemnly inaugurated at Westminster, at which ceremonial the mob falling upon the Jews, who presented themselves to make tender of presents, massacred many, and plundered their dwellings. This barbarous act of the Londoners was subsequently imitated at Norwich on the 6th of February, at Stamford on the 7th of March, at St. Edmundsbury the 18th of the same month, as well as at Lincoln and Lynn. The first act of Richard was the release of the subjection of Scotland to William, king of the Scots, to whom he also surrendered up the castles of Roxburgh and Berwick.

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Cromwell having passed the Tweed, and invaded Scotland, the natives destroyed their country, and retired before him till he arrived within sight of Edinburgh, where they published a proclamation, whereby all *malignants* and *engagers* (denominations given to the Hamiltonians) were banished from their armies. The English having advanced to Dunbar, the famous battle so called was there fought on this day, in which conflict Cromwell proved completely victorious, leaving 3000 Scots dead upon the field, taking 7000 prisoners, with their ammunition, cannon, baggage, &c. when he made his triumphal entry into Edinburgh.

Prince Charles, afterwards second of that name, soon found himself disappointed in the expectation of increasing his army. The Scots, terrified at the prospect of so hazardous an enterprise, fell from him in great numbers, and the English, alarmed at the name of his opponent, dreaded to join him. His mortifications were, however, increased on his arrival at Worcester, when informed that Cromwell was marching with hasty strides from Scotland, with an army increased to forty thousand men.

This news had scarcely arrived ere that active general himself appeared; and falling upon the town on all sides, broke in upon the disordered royalists. The streets were strewed with the slaughtered, the whole Scottish army was either killed or taken prisoners, and the king himself, having given many proofs of personal valour, was ultimately obliged to fly.

Imagination can scarce conceive adventures more romantic, or distresses more severe, than those which attended the young king's escape from the scene of slaughter. After his hair had been cut off, the better to disguise his person, he worked for some days in the garb of a peasant, cutting faggots in a wood. He then made an attempt to retire to Wales, under the conduct of one Pendrel, a poor farmer, who for his firm attachment to the royal cause, was afterwards called Trusty Dick. In that attempt, however, he was disappointed, every pass being guarded to prevent the prince's escape. Being obliged to return, Charles accidentally met Colonel Careless, who, like himself, had escaped the massacre at Worcester; in whose company, he was obliged to climb a spreading oak at Boscobel, among the thick branches of which they spent the day together, seeing and hearing the conversations of the soldiers of the enemy, who were in pursuit of them below. From thence the king passed with imminent danger, experiencing all the varieties of hunger, fatigue, and pain, till he arrived at the house of one Colonel Lane, a zealous royalist in Staffordshire. There he deliberated concerning the means of escaping into France, and Bristol being thought the safest port, it was agreed he should ride thither before that gentle-

man's sister, who, seated on a pillion, proceeded as if to make a visit to a Mrs. Norton, who resided in the neighbourhood of that city. During the journey in question, Charles every day met with persons whose faces he knew, and on one occasion passed through a whole regiment of the enemy's army.

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All peace was now for ever banished from Cromwell's mind, who found that the grandeur to which he had sacrificed his former tranquillity was only an inlet to fresh inquietudes. The fear of assassination haunted him in all his walks, and was perpetually present to his imagination. He wore a breast-plate beneath his vest, and always carried pistols in his pockets; his aspect was clouded by a settled gloom, and he regarded every stranger with a glance of timid suspicion. He always travelled in a hurry, attended by a numerous guard; never returned from any place by the road previously taken, and seldom slept more than three nights in the same chamber. Society terrified him, as there he might meet an enemy, and solitude was equally hateful, being unguarded by friends.

A tertian ague came kindly to Cromwell's relief and deliverance from such a state of horror and anxiety. For the space of one week, no dangerous symptoms manifested themselves; and during the intervals of his fits he was able to walk abroad. At length the fever increased, when the Protector himself began to dread his approaching fate. He was, however, taught to consider his present disorder as no way fatal, by his fanatic chaplains, on whom he placed implicit confidence. When his ghostly adviser, Goodwin, told him, that the elect would never be damned, "Then I am sure," said Cromwell, "that I am safe; for I was once in a state of grace." His physicians were sensible of his danger; but he was so much deceived and encouraged by the revelations of his preachers, that he considered his recovery by no means doubtful. "I tell you," cried he to the physicians, "that I shall not die of this distemper; I am well assured of my recovery; favourable answers have been returned from

heaven, not only to my own supplications, but likewise to those of the godly who have a closer correspondence with Omnipotence than I; you may have skill in your profession, but nature can do more than all the physicians in the world, and God is far above nature." Upon a fast-day having been appointed, on account of the Protector's sickness, his ministers thanked God for the undoubted pledges they had received of his recovery. Notwithstanding these assurances, however, the fatal symptoms every hour encreased; and the doctors were obliged to declare, that he could not survive the next fit. The council, therefore, appeared to know Cromwell's final will concerning the succession; but his senses were gone, and he was just able to answer, "yes" to their demand whether his son Richard should be appointed to succeed him. This extraordinary man died on the third of September, 1658, aged 59, having usurped the government during the last nine years of his existence. It is somewhat singular that Cromwell had uniformly regarded this 3rd of September as the most fortunate day of his life, as it was the anniversary of his obtaining the two famous victories mentioned above, viz. at Dunbar, and Worcester; on which account, his adherents proudly boasted that his soul had ascended triumphantly to paradise. On the night of the Protector's death, one of the most tremendous hurricanes occurred which had been known in England in the memory of man.

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SEPTEMBER THE FOURTH.

Assassination of the Earl of Lenox, 1571.—Richard Cromwell made Protector, 1658.

Mary, Queen of Scots, losing many of her adherents among the nobility, her party became sensibly weakened, which added reputation to that of her adversaries. Notwithstanding the security which a confidence in their numbers inspired, the King's adherents then at Stirling, after the example of the Queen's Parliament at Edinburgh, began framing acts in opposition of those of the

Queen's faction. On a sudden, however, they all found themselves prisoners, through a daring enterprise, formed by Kirkaldy, who had directed that four hundred men, under the command of Huntly, Lord Claud Hamilton, and Scott of Buccleugh, should set forwards from Edinburgh, and to conceal their real intention, march southward. They, however, soon wheeled to the right, and gained Stirling by four in the morning, where not a sentry was stationed nor a guard upon the look out. They encountered no resistance, but from Morton, who defended his house with valour, so that they were compelled to fire the dwelling, which occupying some time, the assailants, unaccustomed to military discipline, proceeded to rifle the shops, &c. when the noise in the town reached those stationed in Stirling Castle. The Earl of Mar in consequence sallied forth with troops, and the townsmen equally flew to arms to assist their governor, when the strangers being struck with panic fled, of whom many were captured, and had not Scott, with his borderers, prevented a pursuit by carrying off all the horses, not a man would have escaped. If the Regent had been saved, the loss on the King's side would have proved as inconsiderable as the alarm had been great. "*Think on the Bishop of St. Andrew's,*" was the cry among the Queen's soldiers, and Lenox fell a sacrifice to that ecclesiastic's memory. The officer to whom the Earl had surrendered, in striving to protect him, lost his own life, while Lenox, according to the general opinion, was slain by order of Lord Claud Hamilton. Kirkaldy, as above stated, had the glory of concerting that plan with as much secrecy as prudence, but Morton's obstinacy, and the want of discipline among his opponents, deprived Kirkaldy of success, which was alone wanting to have rendered this attempt equal to the most applauded military enterprises of a similar description.

Whatever might have been the differences of interest, after the death of the usurper, the influence of his name was still sufficient to get Richard his son proclaimed Protector in his room. It was probably owing to the

numerous parties then formed in the kingdom, and their hatred towards each other, that Richard owed his peaceable advancement to this high station. He was naturally unambitious, being mild, easy, and good natured, while honors seemed rather to pursue than to attract him. He had nothing active in his disposition ; no talents for business, no knowledge of government, no influence among the soldiery, and no importance in councils. Such proved the representative of a father, who had possessed every qualification calculated to acquire ascendancy, and permanently secure the benefits which fortune had placed within his grasp.

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## SEPTEMBER THE FIFTH.

*Capture of Malta, 1800.*

The island of Malta, after sustaining a long and obstinate siege, was surrendered by the French, and became subject to the British crown. It was this settlement subsequently given up by England to Bonaparte in the treaty ratified at Amiens, which caused the speedy renewal of war, as the British government repenting the cession so made, refused compliance with the clause in question, and a recommencement of the sanguinary struggle was the consequence.

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SEPTEMBER THE SIXTH.

Bombardment of Copenhagen, 1807.

The garrison of Copenhagen, the metropolitan city of Denmark, capitulated to the British forces after a severe and murderous bombardment of three days. By that document it was agreed, that the Danish fleet, consisting of seventeen ships of the line, twelve frigates, and numerous small craft, should be surrendered up to the English, and Zealand be evacuated by the British in the space of six weeks.

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**SEPTEMBER THE SEVENTH.**

*Anne Bolen brought-to-bed of Elizabeth, 1533.—The English entered the territories of France, 1813.*

Anne Bolen, wife of Henry the Eighth, was delivered of a princess, afterwards Elizabeth, the celebrated English queen of that name.

The English forces, under the command of Lord Wellington, this day entered the French territory, after the laurels obtained during their arduous struggle with the French armies in Spain.

**SEPTEMBER THE EIGHTH.**

*Sir William Waller defeated at Roundway Down, 1643.—Surrender of the French forces in Ireland, 1798.*

The forces of King Charles the First defeated Sir William Waller at Roundway Down, near Devizes, in Wiltshire, which discomfiture gave rise to a serious misunderstanding between that officer and the Earl of Essex. Waller complained that the latter general intended to have sacrificed him, as no reinforcements were dispatched to his support; whereas the Earl reproached Sir William with want of military conduct, and even went so far as to brand him with cowardice.

Upon the return home of the Lord Cornwallis from India, he was created a marquis, admitted a member of the privy council, and had a seat in the cabinet. But the marquis was not permitted to remain long in the bosom of domestic felicity. The rebellion in Ireland called him again to the toils of war. He was appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland, and commander-in-chief of his majesty's forces in that island. At the period in question, the French having landed, were attacked by General Lake this day, and having sustained a defeat, surrendered at discretion. The Marquis then quelled the rebellion, vanquished the insurgents, disarmed the



disaffected, and in addition to those signal services, by his prudent and conciliating measures, paved the way for that Union which cemented the two kingdoms and it is hoped, will prove a lasting blessing to both.



## SEPTEMBER THE NINTH.

*Death of William the Conqueror, 1087.—Battle of Flodden Field, 1513.—The Earl of Essex headed the Parliament forces, 1642.*

William the Conqueror having taken the town of Mante, which he reduced to ashes, intended pursuing hostilities throughout the Isle of France, when a mere accident suddenly terminated his career of victory with his life. The horse whereon he rode, chancing to place its foot amongst some of the burning embers, plunged so violently, that William was thrown forward with great force, and so dreadfully bruised in the abdomen, by the pommel of the saddle, that he was compelled to return to Rouen. Finding the approaches of dissolution, the king was struck with deep remorse for all the cruelties and depredations he had occasioned, and sought to make atonement by presents to churches and monasteries, the usual expedient then resorted to, and freeing prisoners unjustly detained, among whom was Odo, his brother, which act was reluctantly performed, as he bore him the greatest animosity. To Robert, his elder brother, the king bequeathed Normandy and Maine; to Henry 5,000 pounds, and his mother's jointure, without any territory; and though he did not pretend to establish the succession of the crown of England in his family, to which he began to perceive he had no title, he expressed a wish that it might devolve to his favourite son William, whom he dispatched with letters to the Archbishop of Canterbury, intreating his good offices. Having thus regulated his temporal affairs, he was conveyed to a small village near Rouen, there to settle the concerns of his soul, at which place he expired in the 61st year of his age, after reigning fifty-two in Nor-

mandy, and twenty-one in England. William's body was buried in the church at Caen, which he had founded, the interment being attended with the following singular circumstance:—As the corpse was conveying to the grave, a man standing on an eminence, was heard to cry out with a loud voice, forbidding the interment in a spot which the Conqueror had unjustly seized. "That ground," said the man, "is the area of my father's house; and I now summon the departed soul before the Divine tribunal to do me justice, and to make an atonement for so great an oppression." The bishop and attending priests were forcibly struck by such intrepid conduct, and enquired into the truth of the charge, which proving just, it was agreed he should be remunerated for the damage sustained.

William was a prince of great courage and capacity, ambitious, politic, cruel, vindictive, and rapacious. He was fond of glory, and parsimonious merely for the purposes of ostentation. Though sudden and impetuous in his enterprizes, he was cool, deliberate, and indefatigable in times of danger. The Norman writers affirm, that his stature measured eight feet, that his body was strong built and well proportioned, and his strength such, that none of his nobles could bend his bow. He spoke little, was seldom affable to any one, except Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, to whom he was ever meek and gentle, but stern and austere to others; and although he rendered himself formidable to all, and odious to many, he had yet sufficient policy to transmit his power to posterity.

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A war having been declared between the English and Scots, who always seized the opportunity of their neighbours being embroiled with France, the Scottish king, James the Fourth, summoned out the whole strength of the realm, and having passed the Tweed with a body of fifty thousand men, ravaged those parts of Northumberland which lay contiguous to the banks of that river. As his forces however were numerous, and the country barren, he soon began to fall short of provisions; so tha

many of his men deserted, and returned to their native country.

In the mean time the Earl of Surry, commanding the forces of Henry the Eighth, amounting to twenty-six thousand men, approached the Scots, who were encamped on a rising ground near the hills of Cheviot. The river Till ran between both armies, and prevented an engagement; upon which the earl sent a herald to the Scotch camp, challenging the enemy to descend into the plain which lay southward, and there essay their valour on equal ground. This offer not being accepted, Surry made a feint as if intending to march towards Berwick, which having put the Scotch in motion to annoy his rear, he took advantage of a great smoke, caused by the firing their huts, and passed the little river, which had previously prevented the engagement. Both armies then perceived that a combat was inevitable; and prepared for the onset with great composure and regularity. The English divided their forces into two lines; Lord Howard led the main body of the first; Sir Edmund Howard the right wing; and Sir Marmaduke Constable, the left. The Earl of Surry himself marshalled the main body of the second line, assisted by Lord Dacres and Sir Edward Stanley, who were posted to the right and left. The Scotch on the other hand, presented three divisions to the enemy. The middle was led by the king in person, the right by the Earl of Huntley, and the left by the Earls of Lennox and Argyle; a fourth division, under the Earl of Bothwell, constituting the body of reserve. Lord Huntley began the onset, charging the division of Lord Howard with such fury, that it was immediately put to confusion and routed. Those forces were, however, so seasonably supported by Lord Dacres, that the men rallied, and the battle became general. Both sides then fought for a great length of time with incredible impetuosity, until the highlanders being galled by the English artillery, broke in, sword in hand, upon the main body commanded by the Earl of Surrey, at the head of whom James fought with the most prominent of the Scotch

nobility. They attacked with such velocity, that the hinder line could not advance in time to sustain them, and in consequence a body of English intercepted their retreat. James being thus almost surrounded by the enemy refused to quit the field, while it was yet in his power; but alighting from his horse, formed his little body into an orb, and in that posture fought with such desperate courage as completely restored the battle. The English therefore were again obliged to have recourse to their artillery and arrows, which made terrible havoc; but night separating the combatants, it was not till the day following, that Lord Howard perceived he had gained a great victory. The English had lost no person of note, but the flower of the Scotch nobility fell at Flodden. Ten thousand of the common men were cut off, and a body, supposed to be that of the king, was sent to London, where it remained unburied, as a sentence of excommunication was still in force against James, for having leagued with France in opposing the Holy See. On Henry's application, who pretended that the Scotch monarch, a few moments before his death, had discovered signs of repentance, absolution was given, and the body solemnly interred. The populace of Scotland notwithstanding, continued to think that their king was still alive, and it was long given out among them, that James the Fourth had secretly set forward to perform a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

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The Earl of Essex having been this day appointed General of the Parliament forces, marched from London for the principal rendezvous appointed at Northampton, where a body of 15,000 men was assembled to take the field in opposition to the forces of Charles the First.

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SEPTEMBER THE TENTH.

*Battle of Pinkey, 1547.*

On the present occasion, the national heat and impetuosity of the Scots, saved the English, and precipitated

their own country into the utmost danger. The undisciplined courage of the private men became impatient at the sight of an enemy. The general was afraid of nothing, but that the English might escape from him by flight; wherefore, leaving his strong camp, he attacked the Duke of Somerset near Pinkey, with no better success than his rashness deserved. The Protector had drawn up his troops on a gentle eminence, and had the advantage of ground on his side. The Scottish army consisted almost entirely of infantry, whose chief weapon was a long spear; and for that reason their files were very deep, and their ranks close.

They advanced towards the enemy in three great bodies, and as they passed the river, were considerably exposed to the fire of the English fleet, which lay in the bay of Musselburgh, and had drawn near the shore. The English cavalry, flushed with an advantage which it had gained in a skirmish some days previous, began the attack with more impetuosity than good conduct. A body so firm and compact as the Scots, easily resisted the impression of cavalry, broke them and drove them off the field. The English infantry, however, advanced, and the Scots were at once exposed to a flight of arrows; to a fire in flank from four hundred foreign fusileers, who served the enemy, and to their cannon which were planted behind the infantry on the highest part of the eminence. The depth and closeness of their order, making it impossible for the Scots to stand long in this situation, the Earl of Angus, who commanded the vanguard, endeavoured to change his ground, and retire towards the main body; but his friends unhappily mistook his motion for a flight, and fell into confusion. At that very instant, the broken cavalry having rallied, returned to the charge. when the foot pursued the advantage they had already gained: the prospect of victory redoubled the ardour of both; and in a moment, the rout of the Scottish army became universal, and irretrievable. The encounter in the field was not long nor bloody; but in the pursuit, the English discovered all the rage and fierceness which national antipathy, kindled by long emulation, and in-

flamed by reciprocal injuries, is apt to inspire. The pursuit was continued for five hours, and to a great distance ; so that the three roads by which the Scots fled, were strewed with spears, swords, and targets, and covered with the bodies of the slain. Above ten thousand men fell on this eventful day ; one of the most fatal Scotland had ever witnessed. A few were taken prisoners, among whom were some persons of distinction. The Protector, Somerset, then had it in his power to become master of a kingdom, out of which, not many hours before, he had been almost compelled to retire with infamy.



## SEPTEMBER THE ELEVENTH.

*Battles of Malplaquet, 1709 ; and Brandywine, 1777.*

The two armies engaged at Malplaquet, when the French amounted to 120,000 men, and were posted behind the woods of La Mole and Tanieres in the vicinity. The confederates, with nearly the same number, encamped with the right near Sart and Bleron ; and the left upon the edge of the wood of Languieres. The enemy began to fortify their camp, which was naturally strong, with triple intrenchments, and were soon covered with lines, hedges, intrenchments, cannon, and trees laid across, so that they seemed quite inaccessible. Favoured, however, by a thick fog, the confederates erected batteries on each wing and in the centre, and the weather clearing up the attack commenced.

In less than an hour, they were driven from their intrenchments into the woods of Sart and Tanieres. The right made a vigorous resistance ; but the left and centre giving way, they were constrained to retreat. The field was abandoned to the confederates, with about forty colours and standards, sixteen pieces of artillery, and a great number of prisoners. Hume justly remarks, that considering the situation of the French, the number of their troops, and the manner in which they were fortified, nothing could be more rash and imprudent than the attack, which cost the lives of so many gallant men,

and was attended with so little advantage to the conquerors. Perhaps the Duke of Marlborough thought a victory was absolutely necessary to support his sinking interest at the court of Great Britain. The French having retired to Valenciennes, the allies besieged Mons, which capitulated, and both armies were distributed into winter quarters.

The duke returning to London, received, for the sixth time, the thanks of both Houses of Parliament. The French king, humbled by the general calamities of his people and the success of the allies, made every possible effort to obtain peace ; but Prince Eugene and the Duke of Marlborough being resolved to prosecute the war, all his attempts were unsuccessful. Another campaign commenced, in which the strong towns of Douay, Bethune, St. Venant, and Aire, fell into the hands of the confederates.

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Upon the 11th of September, in the morning, the British army advanced towards the Americans in two columns. The right, commanded by General Knyphausen, marched to Chad's Ford, in the centre of the enemy's line. A severe cannonade commenced on both sides, and the general made several movements, as if his chief design was to force the ford. While the enemy supposed that the whole force was in their front, Lord Cornwallis, at the head of the second column, took a circuitous route, gained the Forks of Brandywine without opposition, passed the river, and took the road to Dilworth, in order to fall upon the enemy's left wing.

Washington, informed of this, dispatched General Sullivan, with all the troops he could spare, to oppose Cornwallis. He took a strong position upon the high grounds near Bruningham church, his left extending towards Brandywine, his artillery advantageously disposed, and both flanks covered with thick woods. But British valour vanquished, drove the enemy from their station, and pursued them into the woods. Scarcely was this party routed when another was to be engaged, which had taken its station in a neighbouring wood.

General Knyphausen, after amusing the enemy during the day, made his passage in the evening, while they were otherwise engaged, carried the intrenchments, and seized the artillery which defended Chad's Ford. At this moment, the approach of some of our troops who had been entangled in the woods, threw the enemy into confusion, and they fled in all directions; but darkness prevented the pursuit, and a few hours of sunshine would have totally ruined the American army. The victorious forces lay that night upon the field of battle; the enemy retreated to Chester, and the day following to Philadelphia.

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SEPTEMBER THE TWELFTH.

Landing of Prince Charles from Spain, 1623.

Prince Charles, son of James the First, having failed in his overtures for effecting a marriage with the Infanta of Spain, used every artifice to leave Madrid without creating suspicion in that court. He, was in consequence, promised the restitution of the Palatinate; but being aware of the emptiness of such tender, and that the Papal see had acquired ascendancy with the Spanish monarch, he left that country in disgust, and this day arrived in England, immediately after which, the projected match was abruptly broken off.

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**SEPTEMBER THE THIRTEENTH.**

*Toulon surrendered up to Lord Hood, 1793.*

The authorities at Toulon declared to Admiral Hood, that it was the unanimous wish of the inhabitants of that city, to reject the Republican Constitution of 1789; and in consequence, they proclaimed Louis the Seventeenth King: that the white flag should be hoisted, the ships dismantled, the citadel and forts placed provisionally at the disposal of Lord Hood; and they trusted the English would furnish a force sufficient to repel the republican army, under general Carleaux. That all



who held civil or military employments should be continued in their places ; and that when peace was established, the ships, forts, &c. should be restored to the French nation, agreeably to the schedule delivered of the same. That declaration was signed by the President, Vice President, Secretary, Commissary of the Department, Commissioner of the Municipality, Commandant of Arms, &c. ; and Toulon, in consequence, was surrendered up to Lord Hood this day, who guaranteed to hold the same for his Majesty Louis the Seventeenth.



#### SEPTEMBER THE FOURTEENTH.

##### *Death of John Duke of Bedford, 1435.*

John Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, was justly accounted one of the best generals ever produced by the line of Plantagenet ; and with whom, we may say, was buried all the good fortune of the English in France.

This prince had two wives ; the first, Anne, daughter of John Duke of Burgundy, espoused by the Duke in 1423, who lived nine years, and died in child-bed at Paris ; the infant not long surviving her, when she was interred in the church of the Celestines in that city, where a monument of black marble was erected to her memory. His second wife was Jaquetta, daughter of Peter of Luxemburgh, Earl of St. Paul, whom he married in the seventeenth year of her age, but had no issue. Upon the Duke's death, she espoused Sir Richard Woodville, afterwards Earl Rivers, for which nuptials, Sir Richard received a pardon from King Henry the Sixth.



#### SEPTEMBER THE FIFTEENTH.

*The Lord High Admiral and the Earl of Essex took Cadiz, 1596.—Battle of Quebec and Death of General Wolfe, 1759.*

The Lord High Admiral of England and the Earl of Essex, having sailed to attack Cadiz, made themselves masters of that strong city, and destroyed all the ship-

ping in the harbour. They then proceeded to plunder the town, wherein was found such immense wealth, that the loss the Spaniards were computed to have sustained, amounted to upwards of twenty millions of ducats.

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When General Wolfe perceived that matters were ripe for the execution of his plan, he ordered Admiral Saunders to make a feint upon the intrenchments below the town. He then embarked his men on board the fleet of Admiral Holmes, and sailed up the river farther than he intended, to attempt a landing on the opposite side. He then put his men in boats, and fell down the river with the rapidity of the tide, unperceived by the French sentinels. the ships following to cover the landing of the troops. The force of the current, however, drove them from the place where they had proposed to land, so that when they reached the shore a high hill appeared in their front, with only a narrow path, and that secured by a captain's guard. But the infantry of Colonel Home laying hold of the stumps and boughs of trees, mounted, and dislodging the sentinels, cleared the path. The troops then ascended, and as they arrived at the top of the hill, formed in order of battle; and before dawn, the whole army was in that position.

Informed of this, the French general could not give credit to the report, and only deemed it a feint, according to their former conduct. But he was soon undeceived. With surprise he beheld the English army and fleet in such a position, that both the lower and the upper town could be attacked at once, and that nothing but a decisive battle could save it. Accordingly, he led forth his troops, and formed them in opposition to the English. He filled the bushes which were in the front of his line with Indians, and his best marksmen to the number of 1,500, and made judicious arrangement of his other troops.

Wolfe was not less active or less skilful in the arrangement of his forces, and he particularly ordered them to reserve their fire until the main body of the army advanced. At forty yards distance they gave their fire,

that made dreadful havoc, which was supported with equal vivacity, but just in the moment of victory, General Wolfe fell; and Monkton, the second in command, falling the next moment, both were carried off the field. The command then devolved upon General Townshend. It was a critical moment, and had not the latter with admirable presence of mind and undaunted bravery, pursued the advantage, the fortune of the day might have been reversed.

When the victory seemed complete, M. de Bougainville, whom the commander in chief had sent to observe the motions of the English when they were making a feint, returned, so that a new enemy was to be engaged. Fortunately, however, the main body of the enemy was totally routed before they appeared, so that they also were as quickly vanquished.

In this decisive affair, 500 of the English fell, and about 1500 of the enemy. The victory was however dearly purchased, as the loss of military genius is almost irreparable. But the death of Wolfe, though grievous to his country, was glorious to himself. Unsupported by family influence, intrigue, or faction, he had risen to eminence, and being only 35 years old, without feeling the weakness of age or the vicissitudes of fortune, he fell at the head of his conquering legions, and expired in the arms of victory.

On first receiving a wound in the head, he wrapped it up with his handkerchief, and encouraged his men to advance. He not long after received another in his belly, which he also concealed. But when he received a third in his breast, he with reluctance permitted himself to be carried off the field. While he lay behind the ranks struggling with anguish and weakness, Wolfe seemed only anxious for the fate of the day. He entreated one who attended to support him to view the field of battle, but the forerunners of death had already dimmed and confused his sight. He then, with peculiar ardour, entreated an officer who stood by to give him an account of what he saw. He informed him that the enemy seemed much broken. The

General repeated his inquiries, when he was informed that the French were totally routed, and that they fled in all directions. "Then" he exclaimed, "I am satisfied," and instantly expired.

It was a singular fact, that the commander in chief of the French army also fell, and that the second in command was likewise wounded. The English officer, however, recovered, but the Frenchman died of his wounds a little after the battle.

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SEPTEMBER THE SIXTEENTH.

Death of King James the Second, 1701.

On the abdication of King James the Second, he was favourably received by Louis the Fourteenth, who appointed the palace of St. Germain for his residence, where, after twelve years exile, and many fruitless and unsuccessful attempts to recover the English crown, he, on the 4th instant, fell into a lethargic state, and was for some time thought dead, when recovering a little, he lay dosing until this day, and he expired in his 68th year.

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SEPTEMBER THE SEVENTEENTH.

*Sir Thomas Overbury poisoned, 1614.—Cessation of Hostilities in Ireland, 1643.*

The Earl of Somerset being captivated by the charms of the beautiful but infamous Countess of Essex, consulted his friend and adviser, Sir Thomas Overbury, who honestly declared himself utterly averse to such a match. He described the Countess as an infamous and abandoned woman; and went so far as to threaten the Earl that he would separate himself from him forever, if he could so far forget his honour and interest as to prosecute further the intended union. The consequence of that advice was fatal to the giver, for the vindictive Countess being made acquainted with Overbury's expostulations, urged her lover to compass his ruin. In consequence of that command,

King James the First was persuaded by his favourite Somerset to order Overbury on an embassy into Russia; the latter being persuaded by the same adviser to refuse going, when the delinquent was committed to the Tower, and there poisoned by the directions of the Countess, by means of a drug administered to him in a tart.

In the mean time the divorce of the Countess from the Earl of Essex, which had been with some difficulty procured, took place, and the marriage of the favourite was solemnized with all imaginable splendour. But the suspicion of Overbury's being poisoned, every day became stronger, and reached the favourite, amidst all the glare of seeming happiness and success. The graces of his youth gradually disappeared; the gaiety of his manners was converted into sullen silence, and the King, whose affections had been engaged by those superficial accomplishments, began to cool towards a man who no longer contributed to his amusements. The adoption of another favourite, and the discovery of Somerset's guilt finally removed all remains of affection which the King might still have entertained towards him.

The diabolical perfidy of Somerset and his guilty spouse were visited by the just maledictions of Providence, for although spared from ignominious deaths, they lived to execrate each other, justly shunned and despised by the human race.

A cessation of hostilities having been agreed upon for a year between the Duke of Ormond and the Irish rebels, that instrument was signed this day. The English Parliament, however, loudly complained of the same, and both Houses declared the document void, promising indemnification to all such as refused submission, when upwards of twenty thousand English and Scotch residents in the north of Ireland swore to live and die together in opposition to that cessation.



#### SEPTEMBER THE EIGHTEENTH.

*Landing of King George the First, 1714.*

This day stands recorded in English history as the an-

niversary of the landing of King George the First and his son at Greenwich, which event placed upon the British throne the first prince of the Hanoverian line. Upon that occasion a splendid court was held at Greenwich, when it was observed, that all those who had prospered during the preceding reign of Queen Anne were treated with marked reserve by the new monarch. The Duke of Ormond, who presented himself with uncommon splendor, was informed that his Majesty did not stand in need of his services, whereupon the Duke retired without having obtained an audience.

The Earl of Oxford, late Lord Treasurer, kissed his Majesty's hand, but was not vouchsafed any further notice. The Lord Chancellor Harcourt had prepared the Prince's patent, but was turned out, and the great seal given to Lord Cowper.—The Duke of Ormond was also removed from being Captain-general, and on the 20th of September the King made his royal entry from Greenwich through the City of London, to his palace at St. James's.

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SEPTEMBER THE NINETEENTH.

Lambert Symnel crowned, 1486.

Lambert Symnel having first personated Richard Duke of York, son of Edward the Fourth, supposed to have been murdered with his brother Edward the Fifth, in the Tower of London, was this day crowned at Dublin, by the title of King Edward the Sixth, having been led to assume the name of Edward Earl of Warwick, then kept close prisoner in the Tower by Henry the Seventh. Lambert being supported by the Earl of Lincoln, afterwards landed in England, but was overthrown at Stoke, and subsequently served as a scullion in the royal kitchen.

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**SEPTEMBER THE TWENTIETH.**

*Execution of Babington, 1586.—Battle of Newbury, 1643.*

Anthony Babington and many other papists having

been convicted of a conspiracy to assassinate Queen Elizabeth, were executed this day in St. Giles's-fields, with peculiar barbarity. The sentence having been passed that they should be hung up for a short period, and then cut down alive, in order that their bowels might be taken out prior to death, that detestable cruelty was literally practised upon seven of the sufferers while the residue, at the Queen's express desire, continued hanging until dead, when they were disembowelled like the others.

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King Charles, who commanded the royal army in person, fell upon the Parliamentarians under the orders of the Earl of Essex, near the town of Newbury; but having been roughly handled by the latter, Essex continued his march for London. In that encounter the loyalists had to lament the deaths of Henry Spencer, Earl of Sunderland, Robert Dormer Earl of Caernarvon, and the gallant Lucius Cary, Lord Viscount Falkland, a staunch and brave advocate for his royal master.

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**SEPTEMBER THE TWENTY-FIRST.**

*Death of Edward the Second, 1327.—Battle of Preston-Pans, 1745.*

As the persecutors of Edward the Second saw that death might not ensue even under every cruelty, till a revolution had been effected in his favour, they resolved to rid themselves of their fears by destroying that unfortunate prince. Accordingly, his two keepers, Gournay and Maltravers, repaired with credentials to Berkeley Castle, where Edward was then confined; and having concerted the method of putting him to death without any external signs of violence, they threw him on a bed, holding him down by means of a table which they placed upon him. They then ran a horn pipe up his fundament, through which they conveyed a red hot iron, and thus scorched his bowels without disfiguring the body. By that cruel artifice, the execrable murderers expected their crime would remain concealed; but the horrid shrieks of the

sufferer being heard at a considerable distance from the castle, soon led to a suspicion of the sanguinary deed, the whole of which was speedily after divulged by the confession of one of the accomplices. Misfortunes of such a revolting nature must ever create pity ; and a punishment so disproportionate to the sufferer's guilt tended to obliterate many of those faults; of which Edward was highly culpable. This wretched victim left four children, two sons and two daughters—Edward being his eldest son succeeded him. John died young ; Jane was afterwards married to David Bruce, King of Scotland ; and Eleanor, to Reginald Count of Guildres.

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The rebel army changed its position at the dawn of day, and was concealed for a time by the darkness, and afterwards by a frosty mist ; but before they reached the field of battle, the sun appeared, and dispelling the mist, displayed the armies to each other. The Camerons began the attack, and marching directly towards the cannon, killed or put the men to flight, and seized them. The dragoons, who were also near the guns, after the first fire, fled. The highlanders then discharged and threw down their muskets, drew their broad swords, and rushed in upon the royal troops. As this mode of attack was unknown in the discipline and tactics to which the latter had been accustomed, the impression was irresistible, and the army at once gave way. None of the soldiers reloaded, and not one bayonet was stained with rebel blood. General Cope then assembled a few of the flying cavalry, and fled with them to Coldstream the same night.

The pious and brave Colonel Gardiner, a veteran officer, who had served in the armies of Marlborough, after in vain endeavouring to rally his flying dragoons, put himself at the head of some of the infantry who still kept the field, and met a glorious death within sight of his own house. The cannon, the tents, the baggage, the military chest, with many prisoners, fell into the hands of the rebels, which spoils provided money and arms to such as afterwards joined them, and proved a very seasonable supply to the Pretender.



**SEPTEMBER THE TWENTY-SECOND.***Coronation of King George the Third, 1761.*

On the death of George the Second, which occurred on the 25th October, 1760, being in his 77th year, he was succeeded by his late gracious Majesty of revered memory, King George the Third. On the 8th of September, 1761, Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburgh Strelitz, our late virtuous Queen, having landed at Harwich, was, on the same evening, married to his late Majesty, and upon the 22nd of the same month, the coronation was solemnized with all the splendor consequent upon such momentous occasions.

**SEPTEMBER THE TWENTY-THIRD.**

*Battle of Bloreheath, 1459 — Landing of the Spaniards to assist Tyrone, 1601. — Victory obtained by Sir Arthur Wellesley in India, 1803.*

The armies of Henry the Sixth and the Duke of York, met at Bloreheath, on the borders of Staffordshire, where the Yorkists gained some advantages; but when a more general action was about to ensue, the night before the intended engagement, Sir Andrew Trollop, who commanded a body of veterans for the Duke of York, deserted with all his men to the king; which so intimidated the whole Plantagenet army, that the troops separated next day without striking a single blow. The Duke of York then fled to Ireland. The Earl of Warwick, one of his boldest and ablest supporters, escaped to Calais, with the government of which he had been intrusted during the late Protectorship; and all the party thus suppressed concealed their intentions for a more favourable opportunity. That auspicious moment was not long wanting, as Warwick, having met with some success at sea, landed in Kent, where having raised his standard, many other barons appeared to second him. The earl then marched to London, amidst the acclamations of the people, who received him with open arms, so that he speedily found himself joined by such a host of Yorkists, as to be in a condition

to face the royal army then advancing from Coventry, in order to give him battle.

The rebel leader, Tyrone, having defeated the English commanded by Sir Henry Bagnal, who fell in the action, invited the Spaniards to make a descent in Ireland, which was effected this day.

Sir Arthur Wellesley (the present Duke of Wellington) gained a most brilliant and decisive victory over the Maharrattas, in India, which important success led to the capitulation and surrender of the cities of Agra and Delhi.

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SEPTEMBER THE TWENTY-FOURTH.

Desertion of General Arnold in America, 1780.—Overthrow of the Irish Rebels in Connaught, 1799.

General Arnold having deserted the service of the American Congress, escaped to New York, and was on this day appointed a Brigadier-General in the army of his Britannic Majesty.

The British forces under the command of General Trench, gave a decisive and final blow to the rebellion in the province of Connaught, by completely defeating the remaining body of the insurgents, who lost nearly 800 in slain at Lachen, where the conflict took place.

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**SEPTEMBER THE TWENTY-FIFTH.**

*Invasion of England by Tosti, &c. 1066.*

Tosti, the brother of Harold, invaded the southern districts of England; and Harfager, of Norway, the north, who were encountered by Harold the Second, near Stanford Bridge, since called Battle Bridge, where after a desperate and sanguinary conflict, the latter proved tri-

umphant, having been one of the most signal victories recorded in the ancient annals of this country.

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SEPTEMBER THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

Julius Cæsar re-embarked, fifty-five Years before Christ.—Battle of Roughton Heath, 1645.

Cæsar made a second descent on Great Britain, his fleet consisting of six hundred vessels, and twenty-eight galleys, with five legions, and two thousand horse. Having defeated the Britons, and imposed on them a tribute of three thousand pounds, Cassibelan and the Princes of South Britain submitted, and gave hostages to the conqueror, who re-embarked with his forces this day. After that period, the Islanders continued unmolested by the Romans for the space of ninety years. It is conjectured that Cæsar embarked near Calais, as a few miles from that town the remains of a Roman encampment are visible, and that he effected his landing in the vicinity of Deal in both his expeditions.

Charles the First having marched on the 22nd to relieve Chester, was this day defeated at Roughton Heath, within two miles of the city, by Pointz, when Bernard Stuart, Earl of Lichfield, fell during the conflict. The king, after remaining one night at Chester, retired to Denbigh castle, in North Wales, where he collected fourteen hundred horse, and proceeded to Bridgenorth, at which place he was joined by Maurice, with eight hundred cavalry; he then repaired to Lichfield, and afterwards to Newark, from whence he sent Sir Thomas Glenham to officiate as governor of Oxford.

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**SEPTEMBER THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.**

*Coronation of William the Second, 1087.—Henry the Second terminated his penance for the murder of Thomas-a-Becket, 1174.—Battle of Busaco, 1810.*

William the Second, surnamed Rufus, third son of Wil-

William the Conqueror was this day inaugurated at Westminster, and, although arbitrary, did not prove so tyrannical to his subjects as his predecessor. It does not appear from history, that William had either wife or concubine, yet Sir Richard Baker, the historian, tells us, that he left a natural son, named Bertrannus, whom the King raised to honours, and married into a noble family, which is the only mention we find of this monarch's posterity.

Notwithstanding the solemn protestations of Henry the Second as to his innocence respecting the assassination of Becket, he, on the present day, finished his penance for the murder of that reputed saint, having received eighty lashes from the hands of the monks previously adverted to, and tendered a gift of forty pounds per annum for tapers to burn at his shrine; in addition to which, he agreed to pay to the Knights of St. John, of Jerusalem, the sum necessary for equipping and maintaining two hundred soldiers for the Holy War in Palestine.

The British forces, commanded by the Duke of Wellington, were attacked in their intrenchments at Busaco, by the whole army of Massena, when the assailants were repulsed at all points, having upwards of two thousand killed, while the loss on the part of the victors was only one hundred and seventy-nine slain, with nine hundred and twelve wounded, and seventeen missing.

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SEPTEMBER THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.

Proclamation by James the Second of the landing of the Prince of Orange, 1688.

King James the Second having received certain intelligence that the preparations set on foot by the Dutch were intended for the invasion of England, placed Portsmouth and Hull under the government of two papists; at the same time ordering matters so, that the majority of officers and soldiers in those garrisons should be of the same persuasion. Those measures having been

adopted, James, on the present day, issued a proclamation, giving an account of the projected invasion by William, Prince of Orange, requiring all persons to prepare for the defence of the kingdom, while the writs that had been issued for convening a parliament were revoked.



SEPTEMBER THE TWENTY-NINTH.

William the Conqueror landed, 1066.—Battle of Poitiers, 1356.

William, surnamed the Conqueror, was son of Robert the Sixth, Duke of Normandy, in a continued descent from Rollo the Dane, first Duke of Normandy, by Arlot, a skinner's daughter. Bastardy, however, did not prevent him from enjoying his father's inheritance, who, undertaking a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, appointed William for his successor. He came young to the dukedom, and proved very successful against his adversaries, acquiring great fame by his conquests; when, having obtained peaceable possession of his sovereignty, he undertook the subjugation of England, in right of the bequest of that country, previously made to him by Edward the Confessor. After making the requisite preparations, William landed at Pevensey, in Sussex, this day, when he set fire to his vessels; thus intimating to his followers, that as no means of escape remained, the only resource left them was victory or death.

It was at a place called Maupertuis, near Poitiers, that the English and French armies came in sight of each other. The French King might easily have starved the English into any terms he thought proper to impose; but such was the impatient valour of his nobility, and their certainty of success, that it might have been equally fatal to attempt repressing their ardour to engage. In the meantime, while both armies were drawn out, and expecting the signal to commence hostile operations, they were stopped by the appearance of the Cardinal of

Perigord, who attempted to act as a mediator between them. However, John, the French monarch, who made himself sure of victory, would listen to no other terms than the restitution of Calais; with which the Black Prince refusing to comply, the onset was deferred till the next morning, for which both sides waited in anxious suspense.

It was during that interval that Prince Edward shewed himself worthy of conquest; he strengthened his post by new entrenchments; placed three hundred men in ambush, with as many archers, who were commanded to attack the enemy in flank, during the heat of the engagement. Having taken those precautions, and the morning beginning to appear, he ranged his army in three divisions; the van was commanded by the Earl of Warwick, the rear by the Earls of Salisbury and Suffolk, and the main body by himself. The King of France also arranged his forces in three divisions; the first being commanded by the Duke of Orleans, the second by the Dauphin, attended by his youngest brothers, while he himself led up the main body, seconded by his youngest and favourite son, then about fourteen years of age. As the English were to be attacked only by marching up a long narrow lane, the French suffered greatly from their archers, who were posted on either side, behind the hedges; nor were they in a better situation in front, being met by the Black Prince, at the head of a chosen body of troops, who made a furious onset upon their forces, already in great disorder. A dreadful overthrow then ensued; for those still in the lane relied upon their own forces, while the English troops, who had been placed in ambush, took that opportunity to increase the confusion, and confirm the victory. The Dauphin and the Duke of Orleans were among the first who fled. The French King himself made the utmost efforts to retrieve by his valour, what his rashness had forfeited, but his single courage proved incompetent to stop the consternation which became general; and his cavalry soon flying, the monarch found himself totally exposed to the

enemy's firing. John beheld his nobles falling around him, valiantly fighting in his defence, and his youngest son wounded at his side. At length, spent with fatigue, and despairing of success, he thought of yielding himself a prisoner, and repeatedly cried out that he was ready to deliver himself to his cousin, the Prince of Wales. The honor of capturing the King was, however, reserved for a much more ignoble hand; as he was compelled to yield himself a prisoner to Dennis de Morbec, a Knight, of Arras, who had been compelled to fly his native country for murder.

The success of the English was, in a great measure, owing to the valour and conduct of the Black Prince; but his moderation in victory was a nobler triumph than had ever before graced a conqueror. That magnanimous youth came forth to meet the royal captive with an air of pitying modesty; he remonstrated with him in the humblest manner, when he began to complain of his misfortunes; saying, that he still had the comfort left of reflecting, that though unsuccessful, he had done every thing to deserve victory; he promised that submissive deference to his dignity should never be wanting; that the rigour of captivity should be softened; and when John was at table, he actually refused to sit down, but stood among the number of his prisoners, who served as his attendants, declaring that it did not become him a subject to sit in the presence of a King.

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**SEPTEMBER THE THIRTIETH.**

*Richard the Second formally resigned the crown, 1399.*

*—Charles the First issued a Proclamation for Peace, 1644.—Manifesto of the Prince of Orange, 1688.*

King Richard the Second having been deposed by Bolingbroke, this day made a public resignation of his crown and dignity, by delivering up the same, together with the sceptre and other insignias of royalty. He

also signed an instrument with his own hand, confessing himself incapacitated from governing, which was the following day laid before Parliament; when articles of accusation, and reasons for his being deposed were exhibited; upon which, Henry, Duke of Lancaster, laid claim to the crown.

Charles the First issued a proclamation, being then in the west of England, wherein he strenuously set forth his desire for peace, when he resolved to march direct for London; his forces at that period consisting of ten thousand horse and foot.

This day William, Prince of Orange, published his famous declaration, alleging the reasons for his intended expedition to England; namely, to facilitate the calling a free Parliament; to enquire into the circumstance attending the birth of the Prince of Wales, and secure the Protestant religion, which was in imminent danger. The States General, at the same time, published a document, setting forth the reasons that induced them to assist the Prince of Orange with ships, men, and ammunition. In consequence of those declarations, James the Second, on the 3rd of October following, desired the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, &c.; when nine of the peers and bishops attended his Majesty with ten articles or propositions, as presenting the most efficient means to restore his affairs; their substance purporting that the King should suffer the laws to take their due course, and that a parliament should be summoned, in order to redress the complaints of the people.

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OCTOBER THE FIRST.

Queen Mary the First crowned, 1553.—Preliminaries of Peace signed between England and the French Consular Government, 1801.

Mary the First, vulgarly called Bloody Mary, in conse

quence of the vindictive conduct pursued by that princess towards the Protestants, was this day crowned at Westminster, when she found herself compelled to borrow twenty thousand pounds of the City of London. Mary was only daughter of Henry the Eighth by Catherine of Spain, and born at Greenwich in 1515. At nine years of age she was sought in marriage by the Emperor, the King of Scotland, and afterwards by the Duke of Orleans; but her brother, King Edward the Sixth, dying, she succeeded to the throne, and married Philip Prince of Spain. Mary reigned five years, four months, and eleven days, and died, leaving no issue; when she was interred in King Henry the Seventh's chapel, in the Abbey of Westminster, without any monument being erected to her memory.

Preliminaries of peace were signed between England and France by Lord Hawkesbury on the part of his Britannic Majesty, and Monsieur Otto, in the name of the Consular Government.

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**OCTOBER THE SECOND.**

*Richard the Second landed at Waterford, 1394.*

King Richard the Second set out the preceding month for Ireland, attended by the Duke of Gloucester, and the Earls of March, Nottingham, and Rutland, where he at first made some progress against the disaffected; but the season not permitting him to pursue operations, he repaired to Dublin, and there opened a parliament this day.

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OCTOBER THE THIRD.

War terminated in Ireland, 1692.

The town of Limerick, with the castles of Ross and Clare, having surrendered to the forces of William and

Mary, together with all other places and fortresses in possession of the Irish; a happy termination was thus put to the war, which had so long devastated that unfortunate country.

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OCTOBER THE FOURTH.

*Death of Edwin the Great, 633.*

Edwin the Great, King of Northumberland, succeeded his father Redwald, as eighth monarch of Britain, in 624, having been the first Christian and ninth monarch of that territory. This prince received baptism on the 12th April, 627, being the third year of his reign, about 180 years after the arrival of the Saxons. Edwin lost his life in battle on the present day, after following the tenets of Christianity for six years, the same being in the ninth year of his monarchy, and the 47th of his age. This monarch was interred at Whitby, in Yorkshire, leaving two sons by his first wife, and by his second two sons and two daughters.

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OCTOBER THE FIFTH.

Return of Captain Cook's Discovery Ships, and his Death, 1780.

A friendly intercourse subsisted between the natives of Owhyee Island and the crews of the ships under Captain Cook's command until the 13th of February, when a boat belonging to the Discovery having been stolen by the natives, Captain Cook issued orders that no canoe should be permitted to quit the bay until it was restored; for which purpose he landed the following day to negotiate with the chiefs of Owhyee. Just at the period in question, a canoe endeavoured to quit the bay, when being fired upon by the guard boats, a chief was unfortunately killed. The news of that event speedily reached the shore, when a most horrible scene presented itself; the natives flying to arms, and in multitudes assailing with stones, clubs, and

other missiles, Captain Cook and the marines who had accompanied him to shore. The officers in the boats on witnessing the imminent danger to which their companions were exposed, fired among the savages, whereby some were slain and several wounded; when Captain Cook, to spare the effusion of blood, turned round to give directions for the boats crews to cease firing, at which moment one of the islanders rushing forward stabbed him in the back, when he fell with his face in the water. The natives then set up a general shout of exultation, and dragged the corpse on shore, where they terminated their inhuman deed, each testifying a brutal eagerness to share in the unfortunate captain's immolation; in which four marines were equally made partakers. The bodies of the slain were then conveyed into the woods, where they were cut up and lacerated in a most barbarous and disgusting manner. After some days the mutilated body and bones of the much lamented Captain Cook were delivered up by the islanders to Captain Clarke, who caused the same to be committed to the deep with the usual military honours. On the present day, the *Resolution* and *Discovery* arrived safe at the Nore, after having been absent four years, two months, and twenty-two days, being the third and final voyage of discovery performed by the gallant and meritorious Captain Cook.

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**OCTOBER THE SIXTH.**

*Roderic appointed King of Ireland, 1175.—The King of Connaught defeated and made prisoner, 1230.*

At a council convened by Henry the Second at Windsor, on the present day, Roderic was appointed King of Ireland. On consulting the best authorities, it does not appear that any laws were imposed by the English monarch on the Irish nation, save by the consent of the people. Both the civil and ecclesiastical states were settled there *Regiæ sublimitatis auctoritate*, solely by the royal authority and *their own good wills*, as the Irish Statute,

of Elizabeth, expresses it. Not only the *laws of Ireland*, but the manner of holding Parliaments in Ireland to make laws of their own, being the foundation and bulwark of a people's liberties and properties, was directed and established there by Henry the Second, as if he had been resolved that no other prince should be the founder of the Irish government save himself, and the free will of that people who had voluntarily submitted to him against all other persons whomsoever.

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The Irish King of Connaught was completely routed and overthrown by the English Generals of Henry the Third, upon which occasion the Irish prince was made prisoner.

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**OCTOBER THE SEVENTH.**

*Marriage projected between Mary Queen of Scots and the Duke of Norfolk, made known to Elizabeth, 1568.*

The plan of a marriage which had been secretly projected between Mary of Scotland and the Duke of Norfolk, was this day made known to Queen Elizabeth by Murray, in consequence of which, the duke was on the eleventh instant committed a close prisoner to the Tower of London.

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**OCTOBER THE EIGHTH.**

*Protestant Bishops excluded the Upper House, 1554.*

Queen Mary having convened a New Parliament, the elections were so influenced by the court faction, that very few Protestant members had been chosen. By this assembly it was enacted that the bishops who had embraced Lutheranism, should be excluded from sitting in the House of Peers; and an act was also passed declaring that no offence should be thenceforward deemed high treason which was not construed as such by that of the twenty-fifth of Edward the Third, or any crime adjudged felony but what was so before the reign of Henry the Eighth.

This Parliament appears to have been assembled merely for the purpose of forwarding Mary's views as regarded the re-establishing Popery, since it lasted only for eight days, during which every thing was done to advance the Catholic cause, and abrogate the laws passed by her father and deceased brother, Edward the Sixth.



## OCTOBER THE NINTH.

*Cardinal Wolsey disgraced, 1529.*

Henry the Eighth finding himself provided with a person who could supply Wolsey's place, appeared less reserved in his resentments towards that prelate, and the Attorney General was ordered to prepare a bill of indictment against him, when Wolsey was commanded to resign the great seal. Crimes are easily found against a disgraced favorite, and the courtiers did not fail to encrease the catalogue of this ecclesiastic's errors, who was ordered to depart from York-place palace, after which his furniture and plate were converted to the king's use. The inventory of Wolsey's goods being taken, they were found to exceed even the most extravagant surmises. Of fine Holland alone, there were found a thousand pieces. The walls of his palace were covered with cloth of gold and silver; he had a cupboard of plate of massy gold; all the rest of his riches and furniture being in proportion, which had probably invited the hand of power. The Parliament soon after confirmed the sentence of the court of star chamber against Wolsey, and he was ordered to retire to Esher, a country seat which he possessed near Hampton, there to await the farther pleasure of the king, subjected to all the agonising fluctuations of hope and apprehension.



## OCTOBER THE TENTH.

*Trial of Twenty-nine Regicides, 1660.*

Twenty-nine of the Parliamentarians, who had signed the death warrant of Charles the First, were this day

brought to trial at the Old Bailey, when, although the whole were convicted, only ten suffered the death awarded them by law—namely, Thomas Harrison, at Charing Cross, on the 13th of this month; John Carew, on the 15th; John Cook and Hugh Peters, on the 16th; Thomas Scott, Gregory Clements, Adrian Scroop, and John Jones, on the 17th at the same place; and Daniel Axtel and Francis Hacker, at Tyburn, on the 18th instant.

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OCTOBER THE ELEVENTH.

*Coronation of George II. and Queen Caroline, 1727.—  
Battle of Camperdown, 1797.*

The inauguration of King George the Second and Queen Caroline took place this day at Westminster with the greatest solemnity; on which occasion the Archbishop of Canterbury officiated.

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On the night of the 10th instant Admiral Duncan placed his squadron in such a situation, as to prevent the enemy from regaining the Texel; and at nine in the morning of this day, he saw Captain Trollop's squadron with signal for an enemy to leeward. The Admiral then bore up, making signal for a general chase, and soon descried them forming in a line on the larboard tack to receive the British fleet. On viewing land between Camperdown and Egremont, he made the signal to bear up, break the enemy's line and engage them to leeward, each ship having its opponent. By that manœuvre Lord Duncan got between the enemy and land; when Vice Admiral Onslow made for the enemy in the most gallant style, and the action commenced at forty minutes past mid-day. The Venerable soon pierced through the Dutch line, when the British commenced a close action with his division on their van, which lasted two hours and a half, when all the masts of the Dutch Admiral's ship went by the board, and soon after his colours were struck; when Admiral de Winter was conveyed on board Lord Duncan's ship the Venerable. The vessel of the Vice Admiral equally surrendered to Ad-

miral Onslow, when several other Dutch ships also struck ; nine sail being the amount of the captures made on that memorable occasion. The Dutch fleet consisted of four of 74, five of 68, two of 64, four of 56, and two of 44 guns, making seventeen ships besides frigates. Admiral de Winter in his despatches to the Batavian government, attributed his failure on that occasion to the following circumstances : 1st, because the British fleet, although equal in number, exceeded that of the Dutch as to line of battle ships—2nd, the English having been at sea for nineteen weeks, the particular capacity of all the ships was known to them, as regarded each other ; which was not the case with the Dutch—3rd, the advantage of the attack—4th, the early retreat of six Batavian ships from the action ; while among those that remained, four were very indifferent sailors.



#### OCTOBER THE TWELFTH.

*Capture of the Vigo Fleet, 1702.—Sir John Borlase Warren's victory, 1798.*

Sir George Rooke with the confederate fleet attacked the French, commanded by Monsieur Chateaurenard, and the Spanish galleons in the port of Vigo in Galicia ; while the Duke of Ormond landed his forces, and attacked the castles that secured the harbour. Admiral Hopsom having forced his way into the port under circumstances of imminent danger, the British made themselves masters of four galleons, and five large men of war ; the Dutch taking five galleons, and one first-rate, in addition to which, six galleons and fourteen men of war were destroyed, with abundance of plate and rich effects.

On the 16th, Sir Cloudesley Shovel destroyed all the vessels that could not be cleared, and brought away 110 brass cannons, with immense wealth, and arrived safe in England on the 7th November following.

Sir John Borlase Warren, with three ships of the line, five frigates, and one sloop of war, encountered the Brest

squadron, destined to land forces in Ireland, consisting of one first-rate, eight frigates, a schooner, and a brig, off the North West coast of that country. After a smart engagement, Sir John captured the ship of the line, named *La Hoche*, and four frigates, being manned by troops, on board of one of which was M. Theobald Wolfe Tone. This victory, though not so brilliant as regards the number of ships captured, may be considered in its consequences, the most important of any acquired since the commencement of the war, the French being thereby prevented from annoying England in that part of her dominions which was undoubtedly, at the period in question, the most vulnerable point of attack.

**OCTOBER THE THIRTEENTH.**

*Coronation of King Oswy, 643.—Henry the Fourth inaugurated, 1399.—The Americans defeated in Upper Canada, 1812.—The Emperor Napoleon landed at St. Helena, 1815.*

Oswy, eleventh King of Northumberland, was crowned tenth monarch of Britain, in 643, upon this day. He completely routed the Mercian prince, Penda, and Etheldred, King of the East Angles, November 6th, 673, and reigned with great glory for the term of thirty-three years. It was this monarch who decided the long contested point respecting the celebration of Easter, and he died February 15th, 670. He had espoused the daughter of Edwin of Northumberland, by whom he had two sons and two daughters.

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This being the festival of Edward the Confessor, Henry the Fourth was inaugurated at Westminster, with all the accustomed formalities, being then in his thirty-fourth year. The night previous to the ceremony, this prince lodged in the Tower of London, where he made his three sons, with several sons of the nobility and others, to the number of fifty-six, Knights of the Bath. At the coronation, Henry was anointed with a pretended miraculous oil, said to have been conveyed by the Virgin Mary to



St. Thomas a Becket, of Canterbury. Immediately after the ceremony, Prince Henry, the king's son, then thirteen years of age, was created Prince of Wales, and the succession of the crown limited to himself, and his issue, and then to his three younger brothers in succession.

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The Americans were defeated in Upper Canada by the forces of his Britannic Majesty, in which action General Brock was killed.

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Sir George Cockburn arrived at St. Helena, where he landed his Imperial prisoner, Napoleon Bonaparte.

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OCTOBER THE FOURTEENTH.

The Battle of Hastings, 1066.

By the first dawn of day the armies of Harold and Duke William were drawn up in array against each other. The former appeared in the center of his forces, leading his followers on foot, that his men might be more encouraged on seeing their monarch exposed to an equality of danger. William fought on horseback, marching on his army, which moved forward in a body, singing the song of Roland, one of the famous chiefs of their country. The Normans began the conflict by a discharge of arrows from their cross bows, which at first galled and surprised the English, whose ranks being compact, those missiles did great execution. But as soon as they came to a closer encounter, the English, with their bills hewed down their adversaries, causing horrid slaughter. Confusion was spreading among the ranks, when William, who found himself on the brink of destruction, hastened with a select band to the relief of his forces, whose presence restored the order of battle. The Norman prince was then seen in every place, endeavouring to force the ranks of the enemy, and had three horses slain under him. At length, perceiving that the English line continued impenetrable, he pretended to give ground; which, as he had expected, drew the enemy from their ranks, when he was instantly

ready to take advantage of their disorder. Upon a signal given, the Normans returned to the charge with greater fury than before, broke through the English troops, and pursued them to a rising ground. It was in that extremity Harold was observed flying from rank to rank, rallying and inspiring his troops with vigour; and although he had toiled during the whole day until night fall, in front of his Kentish men, he still seemed unabated in force or courage, keeping his troops steady to the post of honour. Once more, therefore, the victory seemed to turn against the Normans, who fell in great numbers; so that the fierceness and obstinacy of that memorable battle was often renewed by the courage of the leaders, whenever that of the soldiers began to slacken. Fortune at length determined a victory that valour was unable to decide, for Harold when making a furious onset at the head of his troops, against the heavy Norman infantry, was shot through the head by an arrow, and his two valiant brothers fighting at his side, shared the same fate. He then fell, still firmly grasping his sword, amidst heaps of the slain, so that after the battle the royal corpse could hardly be distinguished among the dead. From the moment of Harold's death, all courage seemed to forsake the English, who gave ground on every side, and were pursued with great slaughter by the victorious Normans. Thus, after a battle which was fought from morn till sunset, the invader proved successful, and the English crown became the reward of victory. There fell nearly fifteen thousand Normans, while the loss of the vanquished was yet more considerable, besides that of the king and his two brothers. The next day the body of Harold was conveyed to William, who generously restored it, without ransom, to his afflicted mother.

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**OCTOBER THE FIFTEENTH.**

*James Francis Edward, Prince of Wales, christened,  
1688.*

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, son of James the Second, was christened at the Chapel Royal of St,

James's, by the name of James Francis Edward, his Holiness the Pope being represented by his Nuncio, standing as godfather, and the Queen Dowager for godmother. The depositions of forty persons of honour and probity, as to the identity of the prince's birth, twenty-three being Protestants, were taken and duly enrolled in the Court of Chancery.



#### OCTOBER THE SIXTEENTH.

*Martyrdom of Ridley and Latimer, 1556.—Death of Sir Philip Sidney, 1586.—Defeat of the Americans by Marquis Cornwallis, 1779.*

Bishops Ridley and Latimer suffered October 16, 1555, at Oxford, two pillars of the church, and ornaments of human nature, as amiable in their lives, as glorious in their martyrdoms. Ridley was born in Northumberland, and received the first rudiments of his education at New-castle, from whence he gradually rose to be the head of Pembroke College, where he received the title of doctor of divinity, and was afterwards appointed chaplain to Henry the Eighth, and Bishop of Rochester. Upon the accession of Edward the Sixth, he was translated to the see of London, and in the first instance partly converted by reading Bertram's book on "The Sacrament," and his conferences with Archbishop Cranmer and Peter Martyr. When Edward the Sixth died, and Mary succeeded, Bishop Ridley was immediately marked out as an object for slaughter. He was first sent to the Tower, and afterwards to Oxford, where he was consigned to the common prison of Bocardo, with Cranmer and Latimer. The latter bishop was son of Hugh Latimer, of Thirkelston, in Leicestershire, and at the age of fourteen was sent to the University of Cambridge, where he entered into the study of the scholastic divinity of the day, having been from principle a zealous observer of the Romish superstitions of the time, till Thomas Bilney explained the ground work of his faith, which interview completed Latimer's conversion. The tenets of Lutheranism once established, he became

anxious to inculcate knowledge in others, and commenced public preacher, and private instructor in the University. Having preached before King Henry the Eighth, at Windsor, he was summoned before Cardinal Wolsey on a plea of heresy, but being a strenuous supporter of the king's supremacy in opposition to that of the Pope, he obtained, through the favour of Lord Cromwell, the living of West Kingston, in Wiltshire. For his sermons against purgatory, the immaculate conception, and the worship of images, Latimer was cited to appear before Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury, and John, Bishop of London, and required to subscribe to certain articles, with which he complied, as they were not of importance, as regarded his belief. He in consequence escaped his persecutors on that occasion, and through the interest of powerful friends, he became Bishop of Worcester, in which function he qualified or explained away most of the Papal ceremonies; and continued in that active employment until the act passed respecting the Six Articles, when, to preserve an unsullied conscience, he, as well as Dr. Shaxton, Bishop of Salisbury, resigned. Latimer remained a prisoner in the Tower till the coronation of Edward the Sixth, when he was again called into action; and preached at London before the young king, seeming to entertain a prophetic view of what would happen to the church in Mary's reign, and that he should suffer death for maintaining the faith.

Soon after Mary's accession, a messenger was sent to summon Latimer to town, and there is reason to believe that it was intended he should escape; however, after a long confinement in the Tower, he was sent to Oxford with Cranmer and Ridley, and imprisoned till October; the principal object of his prayers being three—namely, that he might remain steadfast to the doctrine he had professed;—that God would once more restore his gospel to England, and preserve the Lady Elizabeth to ascend the throne;—all which events happened. While he stood at the stake with Doctor Ridley, and fire was communicating to the faggots, Latimer raised his eyes to heaven, and

exclaimed: "God is faithful, who doth not suffer us to be tempted beyond our strength." His body was penetrated by the fire, when blood flowed abundantly from his heart, as if to verify the desire he had expressed, "that his heart's blood might be shed in defence of the Gospel."

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The all-accomplished and gallant Sir Philip Sidney, fell at the battle of Zutphen, on which occasion he displayed the true feelings of chivalric humanity. While suffering excessive anguish and thirst from the effects of his wound at the moment when liquor was tendered to him, a poor disabled soldier chanced to be carried by, who eyeing the bottle with an eager glance, the brave Sir Sidney refused the proffered draught, exclaiming, "Carry the liquor to him, that poor fellow stands more in need of it than myself." Soon after which, Sir Philip surrendered up his soul: an example of magnanimous forbearance, that claimed the plaudits of his brethren in arms, and the heartfelt regrets of his sovereign, Elizabeth.

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In 1779, Cornwallis embarked, along with Sir Henry Clinton, to lay siege to Charlestown. The place was vigorously defended; but at length the enemy were constrained to yield to British valour. Upon the surrender of this important place, Cornwallis received the command of South Carolina, with 4,000 men under him. Elated with the capture of Burgoyne and his army, General Gates was eager to engage Cornwallis. Accordingly, he took his station at Campden, with about 3,600 men. Lord Cornwallis advanced to meet him with an inferior number. On the morning of the 16th of October, the armies engaged. A severe action ensued; but the British, having recourse to the bayonet, the battle was soon decided. The enemy were pursued nearly twenty miles: and, besides those who fell, 1,000 were taken, with seven pieces of cannon, and the greater part of their baggage.

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**OCTOBER THE SEVENTEENTH.**

*Death of Ethelstan, 941.—Battle of Durham, 1346.*

Ethelstan, son of Edward, proved a magnanimous King, and was courted by most of the princes of Europe. He vanquished the Danes and drove them into Northumberland, subdued Wales and rendered it tributary ; after which, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly were by this monarch annexed to the English crown. It was during the present reign, that Guy Earl of Warwick flourished, who slew Colebrand the Danish Goliath ; and at the same period the Bible was translated into English. Ethelstan reigned eighteen years, when he died at Gloucester, and was buried at Malmsbury.

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While Edward the Third was engaged against the French, the King of Scotland entered England at the head of an army of fifty thousand men, with a view to draw the English monarch from pursuing the siege of Calais. To oppose the Scots, who had advanced to Durham, Queen Philippa took the command of the troops hastily collected, and proceeded with great expedition to meet the enemy, who she this day encountered at Nevil's Cross, near Durham, where the Scotch were completely overthrown, and David, their monarch, subsequently led captive to London, twenty thousand of the enemy being slain on that momentous occasion. The Scotch monarch, although he had two spears hanging in his body, his leg almost incurably lacerated, and his sword beat from his hand, refused to surrender to the governor of Roxborough Castle, at the same time striking him in the visage with his gauntlet so fiercely, as to knock out two of his teeth. The governor, however, whose name was Copeland, conveyed David from the field, but refusing to yield up his captive to Queen Philippa, who had remained at Newcastle during the conflict, he repaired to Calais in order to excuse himself for such non-acquiescence, when Edward rewarded him with five hundred pounds a year in land, and made him a Knight Banneret.

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**OCTOBER THE EIGHTEENTH.***Sunday Sports tolerated.*

The declaration was published this day, whereby wakes, or the feasts of the dedication of churches, with other lawful sports and recreations, after divine service on the sabbath, were revived, that document being read aloud in all the churches of the kingdom. This declaration having created great murmurs among the puritans, they were persecuted throughout England, when the Bishop of Winchester appointed an oath to be taken by churchwardens that no one whatsoever should escape their strict enquiries and examination.

**OCTOBER THE NINETEENTH.**

*Death of King John, 1216.—Newcastle taken by Storm, 1644.*

King John was assembling a considerable army with a view to make one great effort for the British crown; and at the head of a large body of troops resolved to penetrate into the heart of the kingdom. Actuated by that resolution, he departed from Lynn, which, for its fidelity, he had distinguished by many marks of royal favour, and directed his route towards Lincolnshire. The King's road lay along the shore, which was overflowed at high water; but not aware of that circumstance, or being ignorant of the tides of the place, he lost all his carriages, treasure, and baggage, owing to the influx, while he himself escaped with the greatest difficulty, and arrived at the Abbey of Swinstead, where grief for the losses he had sustained, and the distracted state of his affairs, threw him into a fever, which soon appeared to be fatal. On the following day, being unable to ride on horseback, John was conveyed to the castle of Seafood, and from thence removed to Newark, where, after having made his will, he died in the fifty-first year of his age, and the eighteenth of his reign. The character of this monster is too strongly marked in every transaction of his life to leave the smallest necessity for disentangling it from the ordinary occurrences of his



reign, which proved destructive to the people, and ruinous to himself. He left two legitimate sons; Henry, his successor to the throne, then only nine years of age, and Richard, about seven. He had also three daughters, Jane, married to Alexander, King of Scotland; Eleanor, to the Earl of Pembroke; and Isabella, to the Emperor Frederic the Second: his illegitimate children were numerous, but are not named in history.

The city of Newcastle was taken by storm and plundered by the Scots, and, on the 27th following, the castle also surrendered.

#### OCTOBER THE TWENTIETH.

##### *Death of Malcolm, King of Scotland.*

Malcolm, King of Scotland, succeeded to the throne on the death of the usurper Macbeth, and proved a gallant and virtuous prince. He espoused the sister of Edgar Atheling, heir to the English crown, and proved successful against William the Conqueror, whom he brought to terms for Edgar and his adherents. Having visited the court of William Rufus, to require a redress of grievances, being treated with contempt, he returned full of indignation to Scotland, and raised an army to avenge the insult. In his subsequent attempt on England, Malcolm was treacherously killed at the siege of Alnwick Castle, where the keys being brought to him at the end of a spear, in token of the surrender, the point of a lance was thrust into his eye by the Earl of Northumberland, from hence that ancient family acquired the name of (Perce-eye) Percy. At the same time fell Malcolm's sons, and three days after Queen Margaret, their mother, died of grief.

#### OCTOBER THE TWENTY-FIRST.

*Battle of Agincourt, 1415.—Engagement off Trafalgar, 1805.*

The French were resolved to impede Henry's retreat;



and, therefore, when he had passed the small river of Terhis at Blangi, he was surprised to observe from the heights, the whole French force, drawn up in the plain of Agincourt, so posted, that it was impossible for him to proceed on his march without coming to an engagement. No situation could be more unfavourable than that in which Henry then found himself. His army was wasted by disease; the soldiers spirits were worn down with fatigue, destitute of provisions, and discouraged by their retreat. Their whole body amounted but to nine thousand men, who were to sustain the shock of an enemy amounting nearly to ten times their number, headed by expert generals, and plentifully supplied with provisions. Such a disparity, while it depressed the English, raised the courage of the French in proportion; and so confident were the latter of success, that they began to treat for the ransom of their prisoners. Henry, on the other hand, though sensible of his extreme danger, omitted no circumstance that might tend to better his situation. As the enemy was so much superior, he drew up his army on a narrow ground, between two woods, which guarded each flank, and patiently expected, in that position, the attack of his adversaries.

The Constable of France was at the head of one army, and Henry himself, with Edward Duke of York, commanded the other. For a time both bodies, as if afraid to begin, kept silently gazing at each other, neither being willing to break their ranks by making the onset, which Henry perceiving, with a cheerful countenance, cried out, "My friends, since they will not begin, it is ours to set them an example; come on, and may the blessed Trinity be our protection." Upon this, the whole army set forwards with a shout, while the French still continued to wait their approach with intrepidity. The English archers, who had long been famous for their skill, first discharged a shower of arrows, three feet long, which did vast execution. The French cavalry then advanced to resist those two hundred bowmen who had lain till then concealed, when rising on a sudden they let fly their missiles among them; and produced such a confusion, that the archers

threw by their arrows, and rushing in, fell upon the French sword in hand. The latter at first repelled the assailants, who were enfeebled by disease; but they soon made up the defect by their valour, and resolving to conquer or die, burst in upon the enemy with such impetuosity, that the French were soon obliged to give way. In the mean time a body of English horse, which had been concealed in a neighbouring wood, rushed out, flanked the French infantry, and a general disorder began to ensue. The first line of the enemy being routed, the second began to march up to interrupt the progress of victory, when Henry alighted from his horse, presented himself to the enemy with an undaunted countenance, and, at the head of his men, fought on foot, encouraging some and assisting others. Eighteen French cavaliers resolved to kill the English monarch or die in the attempt, rushing from the ranks together, advanced, and one of them, stunned Henry with a blow from his battle-axe. They then fell upon the King in a body, who was upon the point of sinking beneath their united efforts, when David Gam, a valiant Welshman, aided by two of his countrymen, came up to the prince's assistance, and soon turned the attention of the assailants from him upon themselves. Henry had by that time recovered his senses, and fresh troops advancing to his relief, the eighteen French cavaliers were slain; upon which he knighted the Welchmen who had so gallantly fought in his defence. The heat of the engagement still increasing, Henry's courage also augmented, and the most dangerous situation was that where he then fought in person. His brother, who had been stunned by a blow, fell at his feet; and while the King was piously endeavouring to succour him, he received another stroke stroke himself, which threw him upon his knees. Henry soon recovered, and led on his troops with fresh ardour, who ran headlong upon the enemy, and put them into such disorder, that their leaders could never after bring them to the charge. The Duke of Alençon, who commanded the second line, seeing his forces fly, resolved by one desperate attempt to retrieve the fortune of the day, or fall in the struggle. Therefore running

and crying aloud, that he was the Duke of Alençon, he discharged such a blow on his head, that it carried away part of the King's helmet ; while in the mean time Henry, not having been able to ward off the stroke, returned it, by levelling the Duke with the ground, who was soon killed by the surrounding crowd, as all the King's efforts to save him proved ineffectual. Thus were the French entirely overthrown, and their numbers being crowded into a very narrow space, were incapable either of flying or making any resistance, so that the field was covered with hillocks of the slain. After all appearance of opposition had subsided, the English had leisure to make prisoners ; and having advanced with uninterrupted success to the open plain, they there saw the remains of the French rear guard, which still maintained a show of opposition. At the same time an alarm was heard behind, proceeding from a number of peasants, who had fallen upon the English baggage, and were putting those who guarded it to the sword. Henry, therefore, seeing the enemy on all sides, began to entertain apprehensions for his prisoners, the number of whom exceeded even that of his army, and in consequence thought it necessary to issue general orders for putting the whole to the sword ; but discovering the certainty of his victory he stopped the slaughter, and thus rescued a great many from their fate. The cruelty tarnished the glory which his victory would otherwise have acquired ; it must, however, be remembered, that all the heroism of that age was tinctured with barbarity.

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A few moments before the action commenced, Lord Nelson conveyed the sentence by telegraph to the fleet—" England expects every man will do his duty ;" the loud and repeated cheering with which this was received, was a convincing proof that such an injunction was needless.

At noon precisely the action commenced, by the Fougex and Monarca opening fire on the Royal Sovereign. The following is an extract from the log—" 12 10, Royal Sovereign opened fire on the enemy's centre—12 13, answered 16 general—12 20, Royal Sovereign, at the head of the larboard division, broke the enemy's line

astern of a Spanish three-decker, and engaged her to leeward, being followed by the Mars, Belleisle, and Tonnant, who engaged their respective opponents—12 25, opened our fire on the enemy—12 28, Victory, at the head of the starboard division opened her fire on the enemy—12 30, engaging both sides in passing through the enemy's line, astern of a Spanish two-decker (El Monarca)—12 45, fell foul of by the French two-deck ship L'Aigle, whilst hauling to the wind, our fore-yard locking with her main one, kept up a brisk fire both on her, on our starboard bow, and a Spanish two-decker (El Monarca) on the larboard-bow, at the same time receiving and returning fire with a Spanish two-decker (Bahama) on the larboard quarter, and receiving the fire of a Spanish two-decker (St. Juan Nepomuceno), athwart our stern, and a French two-decker (La Swiftsure) on the starboard quarter. The action soon after became general. At one, the main and mizen top-masts fell over the starboard side; main-top sail and top-gallant-sail caught fire—1 5, the master, and 1, 11, the captain fell; still foul of L'Aigle; and keeping up a brisk fire from the main and lower decks; quarter-deck, poop, and fore-castle, being nearly cleared by the enemy's musquetry, chiefly from troops on board L'Aigle—1 10, the jib-boom was shot away—1 40, L'Aigle dropt astern, under a raking fire from us as she fell off; our ship at this time quite unmanageable, from braces, bow-lines, &c. shot away—1 45, L'Aigle was engaged by the Defiance—2 5, she struck. On the smoke clearing up, observed several of the enemy's ships had struck. Fired several shots at El Monarca, our first opponent, when she struck—3, sent an officer and party of men to take possession of her—3 6, the ship being ungovernable, and in danger of falling on board of Tonnant, Temeraire, and prizes, made (3 18) to Sirius, put out boats and sent them a-head to tow, towed and swept the ship clear of them, received prisoners from our prizes—4 5, answered 101—4 10, opened our fire on five French ships making off to windward, the sternmost of which was cut off, and struck to the Minotaur—5 7, the firing ceased, thirteen sail of the enemy's ships making off to leeward, four of their line to

windward—5 20, answered 99 general—5 30, took possession of El Bahama, Spanish 74. Sun-set, one of the prizes sunk, another blew up." Thus far the log; an eye-witness mentions, "that whilst engaged with the five ships in this situation, L'Aigle twice attempted to board us, and hove several grenades into our lower deck, which burst, and wounded several of our people most dreadfully; she likewise set fire to our fore-chains; our fire was so hot that we soon drove them from the lower deck; after which, our people took the coins out, and elevated their guns so as to tear her decks and sides to pieces; when she got clear of us, she did not return a single shot, whilst we raked her; her starboard quarter was entirely beaten in, and, as we afterwards learned, 400 *hors de combat*, so that she was an easy conquest for the *Defiance*, a fresh ship; we were well matched, she being the best manned ship in the combined, and we in the British fleet. Unfortunately situated as we were, I have no doubt she would have struck, had we been able to follow and engage her for a quarter of an hour longer; but had we been fairly alongside of her, half an hour would have decided the contest, for I must say, I was astonished at the coolness and undaunted bravery displayed by our gallant and veteran crew, when surrounded by five enemy's ships, and for a length of time unassisted by any of our's. Our loss, as might be expected, was considerable, and fell chiefly on our prime seamen, who were foremost in distinguishing themselves; 28, including the captain, master, and midshipman, were killed outright; and 127 wounded, including the captain of marines, who had eight balls in his body, and his right arm shot off before he quitted the deck. The boatswain and five midshipmen were badly wounded, and about 40 more slightly, so as not to be incapable of duty; 19 of the wounded had already died before we left Gibraltar. I consider myself as very fortunate in having escaped unhurt, as our class suffered so severely. Our second lieutenant, myself, and eight men, formed the party that took possession of the *Monarca*; we remained till the morning without farther assistance, or we should most probably have saved her, though she had suffered

much more than ourselves; we kept possession of her, however, for four days, in the most dreadful weather, when, having rolled away all her masts, and being in danger of immediately sinking or running on shore, we were fortunately saved by the *Leviathan*, with all but 150 prisoners, who were afraid of getting in the boats.

“ I can assure you, I felt not the least fear of death during the action, which I attribute to the general confidence of victory which I saw all around me; but, in the prize, when I was in danger of, and had time to reflect upon the approach of death, either from the rising of the Spaniards upon so small a number as we were composed of, or, what latterly appeared inevitable, from the violence of the storm, I was most certainly afraid, and, at one time, when the ship made three feet water in ten minutes, when our people were almost lying drunk upon deck, when the Spaniards, completely worn out with fatigue, would no longer work at the only chain-pump left serviceable, when I saw the fear of immediate death so strongly depicted in the countenances of all around me, I wrapped myself up in a union jack, and lay down upon deck for a short time, quietly awaiting the approach of death. But the love of life soon after again roused me, and, after great exertions on the part of the British and Spanish officers, who had joined together for the mutual preservation of their lives, we got the ship before the wind, determined to run her on shore; this was at midnight; but, at day-light in the morning, the weather being more moderate, and having again gained upon the water, we hauled our wind, perceiving a three decker (*El Rayo*) dismasted, but with Spanish colours up, close to leeward of us. The *Leviathan*, the first British ship we had seen for the last thirty hours, seeing this, bore down, and firing a shot a-head of us, the *Rayo* struck without returning a gun.”

Among the numerous statements that have appeared relative to the last moments of the lamented Nelson, the following facts may be relied on, as they have been authenticated by Mr. Beatty, the surgeon, and Mr. Bourke, the purser of the *Victory*, who were engaged near his lord-

ship's person from the time he received the fatal wound till he expired.

About the middle of the action Lord Nelson was upon the quarter-deck, where he had resolved to take his station during the whole of the battle. A few minutes before he was wounded, Mr. Bourke was near him; he looked steadfastly at him, and said, "Bourke, I expect every man to be at his station." Mr. Bourke took the hint, and went to his proper station in the cockpit.

At this time his lordship's secretary, Mr. Scott, who was not, as has been represented, either receiving directions from him, or standing by him, but was communicating some orders to an officer at a distant part of the quarter-deck, was cut almost in two by a cannon shot. He expired instantly, and was thrown overboard. Lord Nelson observed the act of throwing his secretary overboard, and said, as if doubtful, to a midshipman who was near him, "Was that Scott?" The midshipman replied, he believed it was. He exclaimed, "Poor fellow!"

He was now walking the quarter-deck, and was about three yards from the stern, the space he generally walked before he turned back. His lordship was in the *act of turning* on the quarter-deck, with his face towards the enemy, when he was mortally wounded in the left breast by a musket ball, supposed to have been fired from the mizen-top of the Redoubtable, French ship of the line, which the Victory had attacked early in the battle.

He instantly fell. In the hurry of the battle, which was then raging in its greatest violence, even the fall of the commander did not interrupt the business of the quarter-deck. Two sailors, who were near his lordship, raised him in their arms, and carried him to the cockpit. He was immediately laid upon a bed, and the following is the substance of the conversation which took place in the cock-pit, between his lordship, Captain Hardy, Mr. Bourke, and Beatty.

Upon seeing him brought down, Mr. Bourke immediately ran to him. "I fear," he said, "your lordship is wounded."—"Mortally! mortally!"—"I hope not, my dear lord; let Mr. Beatty examine your wounds."—"It

is of no use," exclaimed the dying Nelson; "he had better attend to others."

Mr. Beatty now approached to examine the wound. His lordship was raised up; and Beatty, whose attention was anxiously fixed upon the eyes of his patient, as an indication the most certain when a wound is mortal, after a few moments glanced his eyes on Bourke, and expressed his opinion in his countenance. Lord Nelson turned to Bourke, and said, "Tell Hardy, to come to me."—Bourke left the cock-pit. Beatty now said, "Suffer me, my lord, to probe the wound with my finger—I will give you no pain." Lord Nelson permitted him, and passing his left hand round his waist, he probed it with the fore finger of his right.

When Bourke returned into the cock-pit with Captain Hardy, Lord Nelson told the latter to come near him.—"Kiss me, Hardy," he exclaimed.—Captain Hardy kissed his cheek.—"I hope your lordship," he said, "will still live to enjoy your triumph."—"Never, Hardy," he exclaimed; "I am dying—I am a dead man all over—Beatty will tell you so—bring the fleet to an anchor—you have all done your duty—God bless you." Captain Hardy now said, "I suppose Collingwood, my dear lord, is to command the fleet?"—"Never," exclaimed he, "*whilst I live*;"—meaning, doubtless, that, that so long as his gallant spirit survived, he would never desert his duty.

What passed after this was merely casual: his lordship's last words were to Mr. Beatty, whilst he was expiring in his arms, "I could have wished to have lived to enjoy this; but God's will be done."—"My lord," exclaimed Hardy, "you die in the midst of triumph."—"Do I, Hardy?"—He smiled faintly—"God be praised!"—These were his last words before he expired.

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OCTOBER THE TWENTY-SECOND.

Lord Malmsbury despatched to negotiate peace with France, 1796.

Lord Malmsbury was appointed minister plenipoten

tiary from the court of London, to negotiate a peace with the executive government of France, and arrived this day at Paris; where his lordship was met by an immense concourse of people a league distant from the French capital, who were so anxious for a termination of hostilities, that with difficulty they could be restrained from taking the horses from the carriage in order to draw him triumphantly into the city.

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**OCTOBER THE TWENTY-THIRD.**

*Massacre of the Protestants in Ireland, 1641.—Battle of Edge-Hill, 1642.*

The cruel rebellion and massacre of the Protestants throughout Ireland, this day took place, which was first incited by the rebellious Scots having suggested that a plan was set on foot for totally extirpating the Catholics of that country, who constituted nine parts in ten of the whole population. At the commencement, no design had been entertained of murdering the English; but meeting with greater opposition than had been expected, the Irish surprised and assassinated more than 10,000 souls in cold blood. The English rebels had the audacity to charge King Charles the First as having instigated that rebellion against himself, whereby they endeavoured to render that persecuted monarch odious to his subjects; and the vile insinuation was actually productive of very pernicious consequences to that ill-fated prince.

From the commencement of that sanguinary affair, this 23rd instant until the 1st of March ensuing, 154,000 Protestants were cruelly butchered; and by the 15th September of 1643, above 300,000 perished in cold blood, or were destroyed and expelled their homes.

October the 23rd chancing to fall upon a Sunday, about two in the afternoon began the famous battle of Edge-hill, near Keynton, in Warwickshire, where the royal horse beat the Parliamentary cavalry out of the field; but, continuing the pursuit too far, the King's infantry remain-

ed exposed to the enemy's foot, who were very numerous. The army of Charles, however, maintained its ground till night parted the combatants, when either army retired from the field; and on the following day, both sides claimed the victory, and offered up a thanksgiving, neither, however, thinking fit to renew the conflict. On the king's side there fell its general, the Earl of Lindsey; Lord Aubigny, son of the Duke of Lenox, and Sir Edmund Verney, the standard-bearer. On the side of the rebels, the only individuals of note slain were Lord St. John, of Bletsho, and Colonel Charles Essex. With regard to the number of officers and common men who fell, the accounts widely differ, but they, in all probability, amounted to 1500 or 2000 souls on both sides. Lord Willoughby, son of the Earl of Lindsey, was made prisoner, while in the act of endeavouring to rescue his father. The King's standard, which had been captured, was subsequently rescued by Captain John Smith, who was knighted for the gallant deed, and constituted standard-bearer. Lord Hollis affirms, "That Oliver Cromwell, who was quartered at a village near at hand with a troop of horse, kept out of the field at the battle of Keynton, and excused himself by saying that he could not find the army, nor be directed by his ear, though the ordnance was heard twenty or thirty miles off."

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**OCTOBER THE TWENTY-FOURTH.**

*Death of Queen Jane Seymour, 1537.—The Scotch Bishops cited by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, 1638.*

Jane Seymour, wife of Henry the Eighth, gave birth to a prince, but died two days after, as she had been compelled to suffer the Cesarean operation, which was the first attempt of that nature resorted to in this country. Queen Jane was subsequently interred in the choir of the chapel of Windsor.

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The Presbytery of Edinburgh cited the Bishops to appear as criminals at the ensuing general assembly to

be held at Glasgow, on the 21st November, when the members met, consisting of 200 commissioners ; some of whom, although unable to read or write, were called upon to decide on points of heresy, and condemn the tenets of Arminians.



**OCTOBER THE TWENTY-FIFTH.**

*Deaths of King Stephen, 1154 ; of Geoffrey Chaucer, 1400 ; of King George the Second, 1760.—Jubilee celebrated throughout the British Empire, 1809.*

Stephen alarmed at the power and popularity of his young rival, Henry the Second, tried every method to anticipate the purpose of his invasion, by depriving him of a succession he so earnestly sought to acquire. He had convoked a council in London, where he proposed his own son Eustace, a weak prince, as his associate in the government, as well as his successor. He had even expressed a desire of immediately proceeding to the coronation ; but was mortified on finding that the Archbishop of Canterbury refused to perform that ceremony. It was then no time to prosecute his resentment, as his rival had landed, and was making hasty strides to the throne ; wherefore, finding that Henry was advancing with such rapid progress, he marched with all possible diligence to oppose him, at which period Henry was besieging Wallingford ; where, arriving in sight of his adversary, he rested his forces to prepare for battle. Thus situated, the two armies remained for some time within a quarter of a mile of each other, a decisive action being every day expected. While the opposing forces continued in anxious expectation, a treaty was set on foot, through the interposition of William, Earl of Arundel, for terminating the dispute without bloodshed ; and the death of Stephen's son, which happened during the course of the treaty, tended to facilitate its conclusion. It was, therefore, agreed on all hands, that Stephen should reign during his natural life, and that justice should be administered in his name ; and that Henry,

on Stephen's death, should succeed to the crown, and William, Stephen's remaining son, inherit Boulogne and his patrimonial estate. After the assembled Barons had sworn to that treaty, which spread joy throughout the kingdom, Henry evacuated England, and Stephen returned to the peaceable enjoyment of his throne. This monarch's reign, however, soon after terminated in his death, which happened about a year after the treaty, at Canterbury, where he was interred according to some writers, while others state that himself and his queen were buried at the monastery of Feversham in Kent.

The fortune of many princes gives them, with posterity, the reputation of wisdom and virtue. Stephen wanted success in all his schemes but that of ascending the throne; and consequently, his virtues and abilities remain problematical. If, however, we estimate them by the happiness of his subjects, they must appear in a very despicable point of view, as England was never more miserable than during his reign; but if considered according to the standard of his private conduct, few monarchs could boast more active, generous, and brave. Stephen's sole aim was to destroy a vile aristocracy that oppressed his subjects; but the abilities of no man, however politic or intrepid, were then sufficient to resist an evil that was too firmly supported by power. The faults, therefore, of this King's reign may be entirely imputed to the ungovernable state of the people, while his virtues were unquestionably his own.

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Geoffrey Chaucer fell sick in London, and died on the present day of the year 1400, in his 72nd year, with a kind of enviable philosophical composure, as appears from his song of "Flie from the Prese." He was buried in Westminster Abbey; where, in 1556, a monument was erected to his memory by Nicholas Brigham, of Oxford, from a just regard for his talents. Chaucer left two sons, Thomas and Lewis; the former of whom was Speaker of the House of Commons, in the reign of Henry the Fourth, and occupied several other high offices with great reputation and applause.

The private character of Chaucer appears to have been as amiable as his literary attainments were illustrious. Genteel and complaisant in his manners and address, and frank and liberal in his disposition, he was at once the fine gentleman, the easy companion, and the learned writer.

On his poetical and other literary qualifications, it would be superfluous to expatiate here. He was the father of English poetry, having unquestionably been the first who wrote original verses in his native tongue. Before Chaucer's period, all poetical compositions were confined to the French and Latin languages, or merely translations from them. He was also the first writer in England, to whom the appellation of a poet, in its genuine dignity, can be, with any degree of propriety, applied, as he attempted every species of versification from the Epigrammatic to the Epic, and proved eminent-ly successful in every branch of the art.

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George the Second was born October 30, 1683, created Prince of Wales October 4, 1714, espoused the princess Wilhelmina Carolina Dorothea of Brandenburg Anspach, 1761; he ascended the throne June 11, 1727, was deprived of his consort November 20, 1737, aged 54; suppressed the rebellion in Scotland 1745, and expired suddenly at Kensington on the present day of the year 1760, aged 77, when he was succeeded by his grandson, eldest child of the deceased Frederick, Prince of Wales, under the title of George the Third, of blessed memory.

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A general Jubilee was this day celebrated throughout the British Empire, in consequence of his late Majesty King George the Third having entered upon the fiftieth year of his glorious reign. On that occasion a free pardon was granted to all deserters, and many crown debtors were also freed from imprisonment.

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## OCTOBER THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

*Treaty between England and France, 1656.*

Articles of Peace were ratified between the Commonwealth of England and the realm of France, which were duly proclaimed on the 8th November following. By the document in question, it was agreed that Cromwell should send 6,000 men to the assistance of the French in the Netherlands against the Spaniards; that Dunkirk and Mardyke should be invested by their united forces, and when taken, put into possession of the English, and that neither King Charles the Second or the princes, his brothers, should be permitted to reside in the territories of France. That alliance between Oliver Cromwell and France, laid the foundation for the subsequent prosperity of the latter kingdom, though it was observed that the Protector would not allow the French monarch to stile himself King of France in this treaty, and compelled him to affix his name after his own, as Protector of France as well as England.



## OCTOBER THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.

*Meeting between Richard the Second and Charles the Sixth at Ardres, 1396.—Capture of Banbury, 1642.—Battle of Newbury, 1644.*

Richard sailed to France, where, at the famous interviews that took place with Charles the Sixth, in 1396, between Ardres and Guienne, the English monarch espoused the Lady Isabel, eldest daughter of the French king, on which occasion, in presence of many of the nobility of both realms, he received the princess from the hands of her father, as a pledge of that peace and amity concluded between the two kingdoms. which was then agreed upon for twenty-nine years.

Princess Isabel was between seven and eight years of age when she was committed to the care of the Duchess of Lancaster and Gloucester, who accompanied her to Calais, where she was solemnly married to King Richard, but in consequence of her extreme youth, the ceremony was not

consummated, Richard being subsequently dethroned and assassinated by Bolingbroke, afterwards Henry the Fourth.

Subsequent to the espousals of Richard the Second and Princess Isabel, the following tournament took place in London, which we extract, having modernized the language from a rare work before quoted, namely, "Honor Military and Civil," see fol. 1602.:—

Richard the Second having heard with what magnificence and pomp Queen Isabel of France had made her entry into Paris, thought fit to order a military triumph at London, wherein appeared sixty knights, and as many young ladies of his court sumptuously apparelled. At the head of this troop rode his majesty from the Tower of London to Smithfield, and passing through Cheapside, a proclamation was made, that on Sunday and Monday these knights would attend there to challenge all comers. For him that deserved best in the joust (if he were a stranger) the queen had prepared a crown of gold; or if he chanced to be one of the sixty English knights, he was awarded to receive a rich bracelet.

This challenge, and the prizes to be obtained, were formally proclaimed by a king at arms in England, Scotland, France, Flanders, Brabant, Henault, and Germany, which induced many persons of honour and reputation to repair to the English court. Among those strangers was William of Henault, Earl of Oye, a young prince who greatly delighted in feats of arms.

The day of triumph being arrived, King Richard the Second and his queen, attended upon by the troops of men at arms, and ladies aforesaid, passed through London from the Tower to Smithfield.

The first honour was awarded to the Earl of St. Paul, and among the English, the Earl of Huntingdon bore away the praise; after which the magnificent supper being ended, every one retired. The next day, at noon, King Richard himself, in complete armour, appeared in the field, being followed by the whole band of English knights. On the Friday following, the entire company was feasted by the Duke of Lancaster, after which the king and queen, accompanied by the Earls of Oye and St. Paul, in great

state rode to Windsor, where they were most sumptuously entertained, on which occasion the Earl of Oye received the order of the Garter.

King Charles the First made himself master of Banbury Castle and Houghton House, after which his majesty despatched a proclamation to London, offering the rebels an unconditional pardon. On the following day the king marched his forces to Oxford, conveying with him 150 stands of colours that had been captured from the Parliamentarians.

The royal forces under the Earl of Northampton, not having joined King Charles, the former was surrounded by the Parliament army in Newbury; but the royalists having maintained their ground until night, effected a retreat to Wallingford, without being pursued. Eight days after, Charles having joined Prince Rupert, the Earl of Northampton and Sir Marmaduke Langdale marched back to Dorrington castle, near Newbury, and brought off the train of artillery that had been left there. In that affair the royalists lost 3,000 men, and the Parliament 2,500.

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OCTOBER THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.

Death of Alfred, 900.—Coronation of Henry the Third, 1206.—Defeat of the Dutch by Admiral Blake, 1652.—Death of John Locke, 1704.

King Alfred having by his vigilance and well-timed severity, given peace and total security to his subjects, next strove to polish the country by arts, as he had protected it by arms. He is stated to have drawn up a code of laws; but those which remain to this day, under his name, seem to be only the statutes already practised in the country by his Saxon ancestors, and to which he probably accorded his sanction. The trial by juries with mulcts and fines for offences, by some ascribed to Alfred, are of much more ancient date. The care evinced by this great prince for the encouragement of learning,

did not a little tend to improve the morals, and restrain the barbarous habits of the people. On ascending the throne, he found the English sunk into the greatest ignorance and barbarism, proceeding from the continual disorders of the government, and the ravages of the Danes. He complained, that on his accession, he knew not one person south of the Thames, who could so much as interpret the Latin service. To remedy such deficiency, Alfred invited over the most celebrated scholars from all parts of Europe; and founded or at least re-established the University of Oxford, and endowed it with many privileges. He furnished from his own example, the strongest incentives to study, and usually divided his time into three equal portions, one appropriated to sleep, and the refectation of his body, diet, and exercise; another to the dispatch of public business; and the third to study and devotion.

Alfred made a considerable progress in the different acquirements of grammar, rhetoric, philosophy, architecture, and geometry. He was an excellent historian, understood music, and was acknowledged to be the best Saxon poet of the age. He left several works behind him, some of which are extant to this day. He translated the Pastoral of Gregory the first; Boetius de Consolatione; and Bede's Ecclesiastical History, into the Saxon language. Sensible that his illiterate subjects were not much susceptible of speculative instruction, Alfred endeavoured to convey his morality by parables and stories; and for that purpose is said to have translated from the Greek the Fables of Æsop; neither did he neglect the more mechanical arts of life. Prior to his time, the generality of the people made use of timber in building. Alfred, however, raised his palaces of bricks, and the nobility, by degrees, began to imitate his example. He introduced and encouraged manufactures of all kinds; and no inventor or improver of ingenious arts was suffered to go unrewarded. Even the elegancies of life were brought to him from the Mediterranean; and his subjects, by seeing those productions of the peaceful arts were taught to respect the virtues of justice and industry

by which alone they could be acquired. It was after a glorious reign of twenty-nine years, thus spent in the advancement of his subjects happiness, that this noble character died in the vigour of age, and full enjoyment of his faculties, a bright example to princes, and an ornament to human nature. To give a character of this prince, would only be to sum up those qualities which constitute perfection. Even virtues seemingly opposite were happily blended in his disposition; persevering, yet flexible; moderate, yet enterprising; just, yet merciful; and stern in command, yet gentle in conversation. Nature, also, as if desirous that such admirable qualities of mind should be set off to the greatest advantage, had bestowed upon Alfred all bodily accomplishments; vigour, dignity, and an engaging open countenance. In short, historians have taken such delight in describing this hero, as totally to have omitted the mention of his minor errors, which, doubtless, he must have possessed in consequence of his humanity. Alfred, by his wife Ethelswitha, daughter of a Mercian Earl, had three sons and three daughters. His eldest boy Edmund died without issue during his father's life-time. His third son, Ethelwald, inherited his father's love for letters, living a private life, and his son Edward succeeded him to the throne.

An engagement took place between the fleet under Admiral Blake, and a Dutch squadron commanded by De Witt, upon the Kentish coast. In that decisive affair, the prowess of the British hero was again signally manifested, as he captured the enemy's rear admiral, sunk two of his first rate men of war, and drove the residue back to their own coast; the English not having lost a single vessel.

John Locke was descended from a genteel family in Somersetshire, but considerably reduced. His father had been bred to the law, but in the beginning of the civil commotions, took up arms in the service of Parliament. The son was born at Warrington, near Bristol, and at an

early age sent to Westminster school, where he remained till he had attained his nineteenth year, and then entered at Christ Church, where he soon distinguished himself by the promptness of his ingenuity, and the variety and extent of his acquirements.

Having taken his degrees, Locke commenced the study of physic, and resolved to practise at Oxford; but his success not being answerable to his expectations, he accepted the offer of the post of secretary to Sir William Swan, who was appointed envoy to the court of Brandenburg, in 1664. Upon his return to England he found a patron in Lord Ashley, afterwards the celebrated Earl of Shaftsbury, and on that nobleman's being deprived of the seals, Locke, who had enjoyed his most unreserved confidence, fell into disgrace, but the Earl being president of the Board of Trade, he was appointed secretary.

In 1787, he became a member of a Literary Society at Amsterdam, composed of several celebrated characters, who met weekly to discourse on subjects of universal learning; and the same year finished his great work, which had at intervals engaged his attention during nine years, and put it to press on his arrival in England with the Princess of Orange, in February, 1689. Having been considered an innocent sufferer by the revolution, it is said Locke might have obtained a post of great importance, but was satisfied with the place of Commissioner of Appeals, worth about two hundred pounds a year.

The health of our philosopher, which had never been good, proving very precarious, he had the happiness of attracting the notice of Sir Francis Masham and his lady, who kindly offered him an apartment at Oates, in Essex, which invitation he accepted, and in that social retirement, pursued his studies without interruption, the first fruit of which was his famous Treatise on Government, one of the best productions on that subject, which any language can afford. In 1695, King William made him one of the Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, an office he retained five years, when feeling an asthma,

which had long afflicted him, beginning to subdue his vital powers, he resigned his place, and settled wholly at Oates. The approaching dissolution of Locke, though slow, was sure, and he prepared for the last scene with the calmness of a true philosopher. The day before his death, while Lady Masham was sitting by his bedside, he exhorted her to regard this world, only as a state of preparation for a better; adding, that he had lived long enough, and expressing his gratitude to God for the happiness which had fallen to his lot, he expired without a groan, this 28th of October, 1704; and was interred in the church of Oates, where a monument was erected to his memory, with a modest inscription written by himself. He died sincerely lamented by the good and wise, and his fame has suffered no diminution from the lapse of a century.

Locke was so far from affecting a studied gravity, that he frequently turned it into ridicule, on which occasion he used to admire and quote the famous maxim of Rochefoucault: "That gravity is a mysterious department of the body, in order to conceal the defects of the mind."

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**OCTOBER THE TWENTY-NINTH.**

*Sir Walter Raleigh beheaded, 1618.*

Sir Walter Raleigh, that immortal ornament of his country, was descended from an ancient and respectable family in Devonshire, and born at Budley, in the same country. At the age of fourteen, he was placed at Oriel College, Oxford, where he distinguished himself by his genius and learning; but the bent of his disposition inclining him to more active pursuits, at the age of 17 he enlisted in a corps of gentlemen volunteers, destined to recruit the Hugonot army in France, which was commanded by the gallant Coligny. After having initiated himself in the art of war, and a knowledge of all the modern languages, he returned from the continent to London, boasting every accomplishment that adorns the character of a gentleman. Having aspired to the favor

of his sovereign, Elizabeth, it was not long before fortune essentially befriended him in this respect. The queen taking the air, happened to arrive at a miry place, and was hesitating whether she should proceed or not; when Raleigh, who was probably on the watch to win a smile of royal regard, immediately divested himself of a handsome plush cloak, and spreading it on the ground, the queen gently treading upon it, passed over safe and clean. So much gallantry from a man whose address, person, and wit were alike calculated to strike, could scarcely fail making an impression upon Elizabeth.

Soon after that adventure, Raleigh appeared at court, and met with a reception tending to flatter his hopes, for, on that occasion, as a further exposition of his mind, he wrote with a diamond on a pane of glass, the following line:—

“Fain would I climb, yet fear I to fall.”

which Elizabeth converted into a couplet, by adding:—

“If thy heart fail thee, climb not at all!”

Raleigh was too quick not to interpret that poetic challenge, and he saw it was his own fault if he did not rise; wherefore, after obtaining a proper introduction, his own merit proved sufficient to accomplish the rest.

On the accession of James the First, Raleigh experienced a short gleam of royal favor; but the characters of that prince and his subject were so opposite, that it was impossible for their good understanding to continue permanent.

In 1616, he received a royal commission to explore the mines of Guiana. It was not, however, till July of the following year, that he was ready to sail; in consequence of which delay, his designs were betrayed to the Spaniards, and all his plans rendered unsuccessful. Young Raleigh, son of Sir Walter, fell in that affair: and to give the last stroke to his calamities, he was informed that the king had published a proclamation, requiring him and his officers to appear before the privy council, to answer for their conduct at St. Thome. This proceeding took place at the instance of Gondamar, the Spanish ambassador, who thirsted for the blood of Ra-

leigh, in consequence of the injuries he had done the Spanish nation: and James had neither the honor nor the courage to protect a man, who was one of the most distinguished ornaments of his age. Sir Walter was therefore speedily arrested, and committed close prisoner to his own house in London; but foreseeing the event he endeavoured to escape; and had only reached Greenwich, before he was seized, and committed to the Tower, where in mockery of all justice, and to the eternal infamy of that reign, on the 29th of October following, he was brought into the court of King's Bench, where the record of his former judgment being read, after the lapse of so many years, he was sentenced to die, and the next morning, beheaded in Old Palace Yard.

On the scaffold, Raleigh behaved like a hero and a Christian; he vindicated his conduct in a most pathetic and eloquent speech, and then feeling the edge of the fatal instrument of death, observed with a smile, "It is a sharp medicine, but a sure remedy for all woe."

The widow and children of this great character met with the basest ingratitude and ill usage from the same pusillanimous court, which had taken off the husband and father, whose life no one can peruse without being impressed with the truth of this maxim, "that ambition, however honorably displayed, is seldom the path that conducts to private felicity."

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OCTOBER THE THIRTIETH.

Henry the Seventh crowned, 1485.

Prince Henry was son of Hadham, Earl of Richmond, eldest son of Owen Tudor and Queen Catherine, relict of King Henry the Fifth, by Margaret his wife, sole daughter of John, Duke of Somerset, who was the son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, by Catherine Swinford, his third wife. Henry was born at Pembroke Castle in 1451, of whom, when young, and a scholar at Eton college, it was foretold by King Henry the Sixth, that in his person would be

decided the fatal quarrel between the two houses of York and Lancaster. In the second year of the reign of Edward the Fourth, Richmond fled with Jasper, Earl of Pembroke, his uncle, into Brittany, where he remained till the third year of the reign of King Richard the Third; whose tyranny and usurpation becoming insupportable, Henry was invited over by many of the nobles as next heir to the house of Lancaster, by whom it was proposed that he should marry Elizabeth, eldest daughter of King Edward the Fourth, and thereby unite the red and white roses of York and Lancaster. In the year 1484, Richmond, assisted by the Duke of Brittany with forty ships and five thousand men, landed at Milford Haven, from whence he marched to Bosworth, where he gained a complete victory over Richard the Third; being proclaimed King, and shortly after crowned at Westminster. The following year Henry the Seventh married the Lady Elizabeth, who died in childbed in the Tower, after being his wife for eighteen years, when she was interred in the chapel of her husband's foundation, at the Abbey of Westminster.



OCTOBER THE THIRTY-FIRST.

Simon's Bay captured, 1796.

Advice was received of the capture of Simon's Bay by the British forces, under Vice Admiral Elphinstone, who detained five ships found in the harbour of settlement.



NOVEMBER THE FIRST.

Rebellion in Ireland, 1398.—Henry the Sixth and the Duke of York repaired in procession to St. Paul's, 1458.—Art of Printing introduced by Caxton, 1458.

A rebellion broke out in Ireland, in which Roger, Earl of March, who then governed that kingdom in the name of Richard the Second, was slain in battle. That prince, who had been declared, by Act of Parliament,



presumptive heir to the English crown, in the event of Richard dying without issue, left two sons, both of whom died without children. However, by the marriage of their sister Anne with the Duke of York's second son, that event proved the fertile source of troubles and bloodshed, which so long afflicted the realm of England.

King Henry the Sixth having invited the Duke of York and his adherents to court, the latter accepted the proffered amity, and repaired to London with a numerous escort. In order, therefore, to manifest a sincere reconciliation between the houses of York and Lancaster, it was proposed that the same should be ratified with due solemnity; and upon this day, the two princes repaired in grand procession to St. Paul's cathedral; Queen Margaret walking at the side of the Duke of York. However, notwithstanding that outward show of friendship, both parties cherished their previous animosity; and the Duke shortly after retiring from court, the dreadful war began to rage between the adherents of the red and white roses, which moistened the plains of England with the blood of its bravest and most noble children.

Though we cannot, for a certainty, designate the precise day on which the famous William Caxton commenced the glorious Art of Printing, in London, we know that it was established during the present year, and that one of the earliest productions of his press at Westminster was issued about this period.

NOVEMBER THE SECOND.

King Henry the Second landed in Ireland, 1172.

Shortly after success had attended the arms of Richard, Earl of Strigul, surnamed Strongbow, in Ireland, King Henry the Second repaired to that kingdom, where he landed with an army this day. Finding that his English subjects had made good their expedition, the monarch obtained from Earl Strongbow a surrender of the city of

Dublin, with the cantreds adjoining, as well as all the maritime towns and castles. It was, however, stipulated between the monarch and that nobleman, that the latter and his heirs should enjoy the residue of Prince Dermot's domains, whose eldest daughter had espoused Richard, Earl of Strigul. In referring to John Brampton, Abbot of Jornal's "*Historia Jornalensi*, page 1070," in reference to Henry the Second, we find as follows, being a translation from the original Latin transcript. "All the archbishops, bishops, and abbots of Ireland came to the king of England, and received him for king and lord of Ireland, swearing fealty to him and his heirs for ever. The kings also, and princes of Ireland did, in like manner, receive Henry of England for Lord of Ireland, and became his men and did homage, and swore fealty to him and his heirs, against all men. And he received letters from them, with their seals pendant, after the manner of charters, confirming the kingdom of Ireland to him and his heirs; and testifying, that they in Ireland had ordained him and his heirs to be their king, and lord of Ireland for ever. After which he returned into England in April following," viz. April 1173.

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**NOVEMBER THE THIRD.**

*Papacy abolished, 1534.—Sir Francis Drake returned from circumnavigating the globe, 1580.—The Long Parliament met, 1640.*

The English parliament on the present day passed the famous act, whereby Henry the Eighth was declared supreme head of the Church of England, granting him as such, the first fruits and tenths. It was also enacted, that all persons accused of treason, should be debarred the benefit of sanctuary, and the oath was prescribed concerning the succession; which was to be taken by all persons.

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Captain Francis Drake, having set sail from Plymouth with five ships, on the 15th November, 1577, returned

from his first voyage round the globe on the present day, having occupied twelve days less than three years, in accomplishing that perilous undertaking.

The fatal Long Parliament of England assembled this third day of November, with which commenced the dreadful rebellion of the ensuing year (1641). On this occasion, the Commons chose for their Speaker William Lenthall, Esq.; and on reference to the members of that parliament, Dr. Welwood affirmed, that no age had ever produced greater men than those who constituted the senate in question.

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NOVEMBER TEN FOURTH.

Cardinal Wolsey attainted of Treason, 1530.—Victory obtained by Sir Richard Strachan, 1805.

The aspiring and magnificent prelate, Cardinal Wolsey, was apprehended at York, by order of Henry the Eighth on a charge of high treason. As the king, however, had sent Wolsey a ring, accompanied by a gracious message, that high dignitary, who, like every bad character, was imperious to his equals, and subservient to those above him, chancing to meet the king's messenger on horseback, instantly alighted, and throwing himself upon his knees, in the mire, received, in that abject condition, those fallacious marks of his master's condescension.

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Four French ships of the line, which had escaped the gallant and victorious Nelson, at the battle of Trafalgar, were encountered by Sir Richard Strachan, off Cape Ortegal, who captured the same, to the great joy of the British nation.

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NOVEMBER THE FIFTH.

The Gunpowder Plot discovered, 1605.—Death of Henry, Prince of Wales, 1612.—Landing of William, Prince of Orange, 1688.—Anniversary of the glorious Revolution, 1688.

The famous Gunpowder Plot, hatched by the pa-

pists, and concerning the projectors of which, we have previously spoken, was this day discovered by means of Tresham, one of the conspirators. That individual, anxious to save William Parker, Lord Montea^gle, having dispatched an enigmatical anonymous letter to deter him from attending the meeting of Parliament, that document led to the discovery of the Plot. Lord Montea^gle for this eminent service had a grant by James the First of 200l. in land, and a pension of 500l. per annum.

Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall and Rothsay, and Earl of Chester, eldest son of James the First. was born Feb. 19, 1593, being the 36th year of Queen Elizabeth, who by her proxy, Robert, Earl of Sussex, stood his godmother. At nine years of age this prince with the queen his mother, and his sister the Lady Elizabeth, were escorted to England, where he was installed a knight of the garter; and in 1609, made a knight, for which the King received aid of his subjects throughout England. In the eighteenth year of his age, Henry was created Prince of Wales, but shortly after falling sick, he died of a raging fever aged 18 years, eight months, and seventeen days, A. D. 1612. This prince displayed such noble capacities that he was justly the idol of the English people. It is related of him, that when the French Ambassador came to present his homage on leaving the country, Henry was engaged in the martial exercise of throwing the javelin; when being asked by the Envoy if he had any message he wished delivered to the French monarch, the Prince of Wales nobly replied, "Tell your master how the Prince of Wales was employed when you left him." Meaning to infer, that in case of war he might know what sort of an enemy he would have to encounter. The fate of this heroic youth caused universal lamentation throughout England; nor was his untimely death witnessed without strong suspicions of poison having been administered, according to some, in a

bunch of grapes presented to him, and others through a poisoned perfume contained in a pair of gloves; the whole, however, was so wrapped in mystery, that the secret was never satisfactorily developed.

William, Prince of Orange, set sail from Helvoetsluys with a fleet of 500 vessels, and an army of 14,000 men. At the commencement, fortune seemed every way unfavourable to his enterprize as he encountered a dreadful tempest, which forced him back; but he soon refitted his fleet, and again ventured to sail for England. It had been given out that the invasion was intended against France, and many of the English who saw the vessels pass by, little expected to see the forces on board landed upon their own coast. It happened that the same wind which sent them to their destined port, detained the English ships in the river, so that the Dutch passed the Streights of Dover without experiencing any molestation. Thus after a voyage of two days, William landed his army at the village of Broxholme in Torbay, this 5th of November, being the anniversary of the ever memorable Gunpowder Plot, above commemorated.

Never before was so important a revolution accomplished without bloodshed, or confined within reasonable bounds. Had it been the triumph of the religion, and cause of a popish over a protestant prince, instead of being the reverse, what scenes of desolation would have ensued! The people of England were contending for their religion and their liberties, and they did not, by any sanguinary excesses, dishonor the holy cause in which they were engaged; never was their native firmness and good-heartedness rendered more apparent. That which Wentworth, Elliot, Pym, Hampden, Hollis, Selden, Sidney, and Russel had sought, and in the pursuit of which some of them had died, was now happily secured: a limitation of royal authority, the reigning law, and the superintending controul of parliament.

The chief design of history is to convey salutary instruction. The annals of James II afford several

important lessons, both of political and moral wisdom. In his courage in youth, and his cowardice in riper years, the variable nature of the human character is exemplified. Princes are taught the criminality and the danger of violating their royal engagements. The inveterate influence of religious prejudice is wofully exhibited in his adherence to popery; and the changeable nature of all human glory, in his sudden degradation.

Constrained to abandon that country over which he for a short period swayed a sceptre, he, with his queen and their pretended son, repaired to France. The princess arriving before her husband, was received with every possible mark of attention; being conducted by Louis himself to the palace of St. Germain, and loaded with royal presents. Upon the king's arrival, he received equal honors; and every thing was done to alleviate their sorrows, and supply their necessities.

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#### NOVEMBER THE SIXTH.

*Coronation of Henry the Sixth, 1427.—Release of that Monarch from the Tower, 1470.—Death of Princess Charlotte, 1817.*

King Henry the Sixth, only child of Henry the Fifth, and Catherine of Valois, youngest daughter of Charles the Sixth of France, was born at Windsor in 1421, and proclaimed King while yet under nine years of age. The Duke of Exeter and the Bishop of Winchester, his great uncles, were appointed his guardians, and the Duke of Bedford named Regent of France. At five years of age Henry was knighted by his uncle the Duke of Bedford, and before he was eight years old his coronation was this day solemnized at Westminster, A.D. 1429. Two years after being conveyed to France, he was also inaugurated King of that realm by Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, and had fealty sworn to him by the French nobility, soon after which he returned to England.

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A parliament was convened, by which the unfortunate Henry the Sixth, after enduring three years captivity in the Tower of London, was released, reinstated in his royal prerogative, and the succession settled on his family, to the exclusion of King Edward the Fourth, who was attainted as a traitor and usurper.

The preceding year had afforded England a most happy augury through the union of Prince Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg with her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte of Wales. Those brilliant hopes were, however, annihilated by the melancholy fate of that adored princess, who after giving birth to a still-born male child, became herself the victim of relentless death. Never was public feeling so unequivocally displayed as upon that momentous and distressing occasion, all ranks were partakers of the same poignant affliction, and the clouded horizon of this fatal year, was hailed by universal mourning and heart-felt despondency.

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**NOVEMBER THE SEVENTH.**

*Parliament demanded aid of the Scots, 1642.—Algernon Sydney arraigned, 1683.*

The rebellious parliament having effected a complete rupture with Charles the First, and blood being already spilt in the field, the Commons, in order to support the war, this day determined to solicit aid of the Scots, who were no less refractory. In consequence of that resolution, the Scottish general was received with every mark of distinguished honour at Westminster, and presented with a gratuity of five thousand pounds.

Algernon Sidney was arraigned at the bar of the King's-bench for high treason, in having conspired the death of his Majesty Charles the Second, and consulting with several other traitors how the same might be accomplished. It was in particular alleged against him, that he had contrived and hatched a treasonable libel,

wherein he asserted that power was originally vested in the people, and by them delegated to Parliament, to whom the King himself was subject and liable to be called to account. Sidney was the first instance on record of an individual being accused of treason and condemned to death for writing opinions which he had never published.



#### NOVEMBER THE EIGHTH.

*Association in favour of the Prince of Orange, 1686.*

On the landing of William Prince of Orange, he published a letter addressed to the officers of the English army, wherein he laid down his reasons for advocating the Protestant cause, a copy of which was also transmitted to the British fleet. Immediately after James the Second issued a reply to that declaration, and on the 7th instant, Lord Delaware took up arms in Cheshire, and declared for William, many others following his example. On this day the Prince of Orange arrived at Exeter, where an Association was signed by the gentlemen who formed a junction with William at the above mentioned city, among whom was Lord Carnbury, son of the Earl of Clarendon, with three entire regiments, who went over to the Prince of Orange.



#### NOVEMBER THE NINTH.

*Act passed for seizure of the Knights Templars throughout England, 1322.—Death of Camden, 1623.*

Edward the Third on the present day, secretly executed an instrument whereby it was ordered that all the Knights Templars throughout England should be seized, which command was executed the seventh of January following. The accusation against that fraternity being their having committed acts of heresy, and numberless other crimes. A national synod was soon after convened in London, where the Knights suffered condemnation, but were not treated with the diabolical



cruelty practised against them in France, by Philip le Bel. In England they were dispersed in other monasteries for the performance of penance, having a moderate pension allowed out of the revenues of their rich order. The Pope reserved to himself the disposal of the estates of the Templars, which were shortly after given to the use of the Hospitaller Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, since called the Knights of Malta.

Camden, the celebrated antiquary and historian, died this day, to whom we are indebted for many valuable stores of information, as regards British History, which would have been inevitably lost but for his industry and indefatigable perseverance in research.

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NOVEMBER THE TENTH.

Death of Milton, 1674.—Defeat of the French at St. Pé, 1813.

The illustrious poet, John Milton, was descended from an ancient line of ancestors, which had long been seated at Milton, near Thame, in Oxfordshire; but having been engaged in the quarrels which existed between the houses of York and Lancaster, they forfeited in consequence their principal estate. His grandfather, a zealous papist, however enjoyed an appointment in the forest of Shotover, in that neighbourhood; but his father being disinherited for embracing the Protestant faith, settled in London as a scrivener, and in Bread-street John Milton, his son, was born in 1608. He was educated at St. Paul's school, and at sixteen admitted at Christ's Church, Cambridge. Milton had already attained a proficiency in classical learning; he had written some beautiful Latin poems before he went to the University, having formed his taste on the purest models of antiquity, and was considered as the first Englishman who wrote with classical elegance. It was in the studious retirement of Cambridge, that he conceived the first

rude idea of a work which has rendered his name immortal. When secretary to the Earl of Bridgewater, then governor of Wales, and residing at Ludlow castle, Milton produced his celebrated "Masque of Comus," for the three children of that nobleman, a work in which imagery, pathos, and a fervid but chaste language decorate every page.

His next production was "Lycidas," a delightful monody, occasioned by the death of an amiable young gentleman, the son of Sir John King. It is supposed that about this time he also composed those exquisite poems entitled "L'Allegro," and "Il Penseroso," which, had he left nothing else, would have transmitted his name to immortality.

Having obtained his father's permission to travel, in 1638 he left England, and first visited Paris, where he was introduced to the celebrated Grotius; and hastening to Italy, applied himself to the study of that language with the most brilliant success.

After having spent two years in continental travels, news arrived of the commotions in his native country, when Milton hastened his return, and took a house in Aldersgate-street, where he superintended the education of a few young gentlemen who lodged and boarded under his roof; his pen being occasionally employed in attacking the very foundation of church government, and exalting the puritanical party, to which he had devoted himself with unshaken adherence.

At the age of thirty-five, he married Mary Powell, who upon some disagreement left him, nor was it till friends interfered that they were reunited.

The political work which gained Milton the most extensive reputation, was his "Defensio pro populo Anglicano; or Defence of the People of England," and although he received one thousand pounds, and was made Latin secretary to Oliver Cromwell for that treatise, in consequence of too intense application, a disorder which had long affected his sight, then terminated in total blindness. About this period he also lost his wife, who

left him three daughters; when, after marrying again in little more than a year, he became a second time a widower.

Milton was then in his fifty-second year, deprived of his sight, borne down by infirmities, and distressed by the vicissitudes of fortune; yet the vigour of his mind enabled him to rise with elastic force superior to such an accumulation of ills. He appeared again in public, entered the third time into the marriage state, and it is said refused the place of Latin secretary to King Charles the Second after the Restoration. Upon the appearance of the plague in London, he retired with his family to Buckinghamshire, where he finished his "Paradise Lost," which had occupied his thoughts for many years.

Milton sold his copy right of that sublimest of poems for five pounds ready money, five pounds more when one thousand three hundred of the book should be disposed of, and the same sum on the publication of a second and third edition. From this agreement Milton received no more than fifteen pounds, and his widow afterwards transferred every claim for the miserable additional sum of eight pounds.

About three years after the appearance of "Paradise Lost," Milton produced his "Samson Agonistes," a tragedy written on the purest Greek model, and "Paradise Regained," which he himself preferred to Paradise Lost.

A life of indefatigable study, and which had been exposed to various vicissitudes, hastened this great man's death who had long been afflicted with the gout and other infirmities. and was in consequence completely worn out. He died without a struggle on the 10th November, 1674, in the sixty-sixth year of his age, and was interred in the church of St. Giles's, Cripplegate, and to commemorate his fame, a monument was some years after erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey.

The French forces under General Soult, experienced a signal defeat from the Duke of Wellington at St. John de Luz, after which the British continued on the alert,

and the Duke having disposed his forces in an advantageous manner, again attacked the enemy this day at St. Pé, in which the English were once more victorious. In the latter affair, the loss of the British and Portuguese amounted to 2694 officers and privates, but that sustained by the Spaniards was not returned.



NOVEMBER THE ELEVENTH.

The Earl of Strafford impeached, 1640.—The Parliament adopted the New Great Seal, 1643.

Mr. Pym carried up a general impeachment against the Earl of Strafford to the House of Peers, who was in consequence attainted of high treason, and committed to the custody of the Usher of the Black Rod.

The two Houses of Parliament having caused a New Great Seal to be made, issued a declaration, purporting that all letters, patents, and grants, which had passed the Great Seal by King Charles the First subsequent to the 22nd May, 1642, should be void; and that thenceforward their own Great Seal should be of the same authority as any Great Seal of England had formerly been. They then committed the custody of the same to the Earls of Bolingbroke and Kent, and Mr. St. John, Serjeant Wild, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Prideaux. Immediately after the Parliament seized all the regalia and plate in Westminster Abbey, and sold the same, on which occasion, being importuned to leave a single cup and salver for the Communion service, the answer given was, "*That a wooden dish would serve the purpose just as well!*"



NOVEMBER THE TWELFTH.

Death of Canute the Great, 1036.—Magna Charta granted to Ireland, 1216.—Battle of Preston, 1715.

As Canute's reign was begun in blood, he was, towards the latter end of it, willing to atone for his for-

mer fierceness by acts of penance and devotion. He therefore erected churches, endowed monasteries, and appointed revenues for the celebration of masses. He even undertook a pilgrimage to Rome, and continued there a considerable time, when, besides obtaining from the Pope some privileges in favour of his English seminary erected there, Canute also engaged the several princes through whose dominions he passed, to desist from levying those heavy impositions, which they were accustomed to exact from the English pilgrims. The piety of the latter part of this prince's life, and the resolute valour of the former, were topics that filled the mouths of his courtiers with flattery and praise, as they ever affected to think his power uncontrollable, and that all things would be obedient to his command. Canute, sensible of their fulsome adulation, is said to have taken the following method to reprove them: He ordered his chair to be set on the sea beach, while the tide was coming in, and then commanded the flood to retire. "Thou art under my dominion," said he, "the land upon which I sit is mine, I charge thee therefore to approach no farther, nor dare to wet the foot of thy sovereign." He then designed to sit some time in expectation of submission, till the waves began to surround him, when turning to his courtiers, he pertinently observed, "That the title of lord and master belonged only to Him, whom both earth and seas were ready to obey." Thus feared and respected, Canute lived many years, honoured with the surname of Great on account of his power, but deserving it still more in consequence of his virtues. He died at Shaftsbury, in the nineteenth year of his reign, leaving behind him three sons, Sweyn, Harold and Hardicanute: Sweyn was crowned King of Norway; Hardicanute became possessed of Denmark, and Harold succeeded his father on the English throne.

Henry the Third granted a Magna Charta to Ireland bearing date this day from Bristol, 1216, the first year of his reign. The document in question was prefaced in

the following manner: "That for the honour of God, and advancement of the Holy Church, by the advice of his Council of England, whose names are then recited," he makes the following grant to Ireland, after which the document proceeds in precisely the same terms as those contained in the Magna Charta of England. In the February following, the same monarch, to gratify the Irish (according to Prynne) for their eminent loyalty to his father and himself, granted them out of his special grace, that they should for ever enjoy the liberties granted by his father and himself to the realm of England, which he then reduced into writing, and dispatched sealed hither under the seal of the Pope's legate and William, Earl Marshal, his governor, he (the King) then having no seal of his own.

General Willes advanced towards Preston, to attack Mr. Foster, and passed Ribble Bridge, about a mile from Preston, without opposition. To the neglect of securing this pass, the ruin of the Northumbrians is, in a great measure, imputed; but their great misfortune was, that they were under no command; for, though Mr. Foster bore the name of general, every gentleman expected his own advice should be followed.

However, when General Willes attacked them in the evening at Preston, they behaved themselves very gallantly, and repulsed him, killing at least 300 of his men; nor could the common soldiers (who were most of them new raised men) be brought without difficulty to renew the attack.



NOVEMBER THE THIRTEENTH.

Massacre of the Danes, 1002.

The Danes invaded England, but were restrained from further mischief by Ethelred paying them £10,000 to desist and depart; but notwithstanding they left the realm, so great an emolument excited those barbarians to recom-

mence hostilities soon after, when they made frequent incursions from the year 997 to 999, receiving at one payment about £30,000, collected by means of a land-tax, called Danegelt; after which, the Danes grew so imperious as to acquire the title of Lord Danes, which induced Ethelred to order a general massacre of that people on the present day of 1002, which began at Welwyn in Hertfordshire. This act exasperated them to avenge the slaughter of their countrymen; for which purpose, Swein landed on the coast of Devon in 1003, and on the coast of Norfolk the year following, when his followers destroyed the city of Norwich, and the town of Thetford. They then continued their depredations until Ethelred had paid Swein £36,000, which he the year following demanded as an annual tribute; and to enforce the same, despatched a fleet, to oppose which, in 1007 Ethelred fitted out a more formidable squadron than had ever been possessed by his predecessors. However, owing to the dissensions of the nobility it was rendered abortive, and the Danes pillaged Kent and secured their winter quarters upon the Isle of Thanet. In the spring of 1008 they again subdued a great portion of the kingdom, pillaging wherever they went; so that in order to stop their progress, it was agreed to pay them £48,000 to quit the kingdom, which was again evacuated by the Danes in 1012.



NOVEMBER THE FOURTEENTH.

Henry the Eighth married to Anne Bolen, 1552.

King Henry the Eighth espoused his second wife, Anne Bolen, daughter of Thomas Bolen, Earl of Wiltshire, who had been one of the maids of honour to Queen Catherine, of Arragon. This princess enjoyed the favour of her fickle and tyrannic husband three years and a few months, when feeling a predilection for a new object upon a frivolous accusation, she was arraigned, condemned, and beheaded, which event we have previously recorded, and her body was interred in St. Peter's chapel, in the Tower.



NOVEMBER THE FIFTEENTH.*Birth of Edward the Third, 1312.*

Edward the Third, called from his birth place, Edward of Windsor, was son of Edward the Second, by Isabella, his Queen, sister to Charles the Fourth, King of France. Through the prevailing interest of Mortimer, his mother's favorite, he ratified a dishonourable peace with Scotland, for which, Mortimer lost his life not long after. King Edward the Third, however, effected a new conquest of Scotland, and Robert Bruce (their King) chancing to die, he compelled the Scots to acknowledge Edward Baliol for their King, from whom he received homage. Notwithstanding the Salic law in France, by virtue of which all females are excluded from the crown, he pursued, with success, his title to that realm in right of his mother, upon the death of her brother, Charles the Fourth, of France.

**NOVEMBER THE SIXTEENTH.**

Death of Henry the Third, 1272.—Execution of Perkin Warbeck, 1499.—Archbishop Laud attainted of Treason, 1644.

Scarcely had Edward, Prince of Wales, departed upon his expedition to Palestine, ere the health of his father, Henry the Third, began to decline; when he found, not only his constitution, but also that of the state, in such a dangerous situation, that he wrote letters to his son, pressing him to return with all dispatch. The former calamities began to threaten the kingdom anew; and the barons, taking advantage of the King's weakness, oppressed the people with impunity. Bands of robbers infested various parts of the nation; and the populace of London, once more assumed their accustomed licentiousness. To add to the King's uneasiness, his brother Richard died, who had long assisted him with his advice in all his emergencies, he therefore ardently wished for the return of his gallant son, who had placed the sceptre in hands that were too feeble to wield it. At length over-



come by the cares of government and the infirmities of age, Henry ordered himself to be removed, by easy journeys, from St. Edmund's to Westminster, where sending for the Earl of Gloucester, he obliged him to swear, that he would preserve the peace of the kingdom, and to the utmost of his power maintain the interests of his son.

Thus died Henry the Third, in the sixty-fourth year of his age, and the fifty-sixth of his reign, the longest to be met with in the English annals.

He was a prince more adapted for private than for public life; his ease, simplicity, and good nature, would have secured him that happiness in a lower station, of which they deprived him upon a throne. However, from his calamities, the people afterwards derived the most permanent blessing; for that liberty, which they extorted from his weakness, they continued to preserve under holder princes, who succeeded him. The flame of freedom had now diffused itself from the incorporated towns through the whole mass of the people, and ever afterwards blazed forth at convenient seasons; so that in proportion as the upper orders lost, the people were sure to be gainers. In this contest, though they often laid down their lives, and suffered all the calamities of civil war, yet those sufferings were considered as nothing, when weighed against the advantages of freedom and luxury.

Perkin Warbeck made his escape, but was recaptured and sent to the Tower, where contriving with the Earl of Warwick to effect his escape, he was this day executed at Tyburn. See the 28th of the present month.

Notwithstanding the House of Peers had pronounced Laud guiltless of the crime of high treason, the Commons ordered the Archbishop before them, and without hearing any evidence but what was adduced by their own council, attainted him of treason. Speaking of the character of that ecclesiastic, Lord Clarendon remarks: "That his learning, piety, and virtue, have been attainted by very few, and the greatest of his infirmities are common to the best of men."

NOVEMBER THE SEVENTEENTH.*Death of Mary the First, 1558.*

Mary the First, of England, died without issue in the 43rd year of her age, and the sixth of her reign, and was interred the 13th of December following, in the chapel of Henry the Seventh, with great pomp. The Bishop of Winchester, who delivered the funeral oration, so greatly extolled the deceased, and lamented the then existing state of affairs with such freedom, that he was apprehended and sent to prison.

**NOVEMBER THE EIGHTEENTH.***Death of Archbishop Tillotson, 1694.*

John Tillotson, one among the brightest ornaments of the English church, was the son of a respectable clothier, and born at Sowerby, near Halifax, in Yorkshire. Both his parents were Nonconformists, and he was initiated in the same principles, which, however, his maturer sense and more liberal mind, soon taught him to reject.

A love of truth was the ruling passion of his heart, and he sought it with sedulous zeal, and being early disgusted with the narrow views of the puritans, he had the good fortune to read a celebrated performance of Chillingworth's, which fixed the future basis of his mind.

Having left the university about 1656, Tillotson was engaged as tutor to the son of Edward Prideaux, Esq Attorney General; to Cromwell, in which situation he spent some time. The period at which he went into holy orders cannot be ascertained, but it appears that his first employment in the church, was that of curate at Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire. There the young divine began to display those mild and gentle manners, that persuasive and impressive eloquence which laid the foundation of his future fortune and fame. Being deeply acquainted with theological subjects, and possessed of a sound judgment, and a purity of taste, of which there were few examples among the preachers of that time, he soon attracted so much notice, that in 1662 he was offered the parish of St. Mary,

Aldermanbury, the patronage of which was vested in the parishioners. For some reasons, now unknown, he declined that benefice; but was soon presented to the rectory of Keddington, in Suffolk, in which, however, he was scarcely settled before the society of Lincoln's Inn appointed him their preacher. So strongly, however, were the Courts of Law tainted with fanaticism, that at first the rational piety of Tillotson was disliked. This proved but temporary, by degrees a better taste began to prevail, and our excellent divine not only overcame the prejudices of the society, but being chosen lecturer of St. Lawrence Jewry, he was followed by a numerous audience for instruction, and by many of his own *profession for improvement*. From zeal to discharge faithfully his sacred function, he determined to oppose two growing evils of Charles the Second's reign, Atheism and Popery, which he not only combated in the pulpit, but from time to time published such tracts or sermons, as were calculated for a more extensive effect, and his laudable and pious intentions did not lose their reward.

In 1666, he took the degree of doctor in divinity, and having married Elizabeth French, niece to Oliver Cromwell, and connected by affinity to his old friend Dr. John Wilkins, he was appointed to preach the consecration sermon of that prelate, to the see of Chester. In 1670, Tillotson was made Prebendary of Canterbury, and two years afterwards Dean of that church, having previously obtained a prebend's stall in St. Paul's cathedral.

Doctor Tillotson had been seven years on the list of Chaplains to Charles the Second, but the zeal which he had on all occasions displayed against Popery and irreligion, rendered him no favourite with that monarch; so that he was rather advanced by the interest of friends than court favor. When a declaration for liberty of conscience was published, which, under the mask of moderation, had a view to the indulgence of Papists, the dignified clergy took the alarm, and the king complained to the Primate, Sheldon, of their refractory conduct. The Archbishop therefore called some of them together, and begged their advice, on which occasion the wisdom and firmness

of Tillotson became eminently conspicuous. He suggested, that since the king professed the Protestant religion, it would be a thing unprecedented to forbid the clergy from preaching in defence of that faith. The sentiment was so just, and the arguments so conclusive, that it was unanswerable; and the clergy would have acquiesced with his opinions in case it had been necessary to defend their conduct. In the mean time, Tillotson's preaching and writings were equally successful, and he had the happiness to convert the Earl of Shrewsbury to the Protestant faith, and lived to see his noble proselyte raised to a dukedom.

Such was the high character of Dean Tillotson, that when the settlement of the crown on King William for life was agitated in Parliament, Princess Ann of Denmark, who had been advised by the Jacobites to oppose it, as prejudicial to her own interests, consulted him on that momentous occasion; and from a regard to his persuasions, is said to have relinquished her prior claim. On the accession of William and Mary, to whose advancement the divine had been zealously attached, he was admitted into high favour at court, and made clerk of the closet.

Archbishop Sancroft having refused to take the oaths of allegiance to William and Mary, after their title had been recognised by Parliament, his suspension became necessary, and if he remained refractory, his removal from office also. The king entertained such an exalted opinion of Tillotson, that he immediately thought of making him Primate, and the reluctance with which Tillotson himself fell into his majesty's views, is forcibly expressed in a letter to Lady Russel. He had already refused a mitre, and of all things his ambition seems to have been least directed to the primacy. But the earnest representations of the king, and zeal for his service, at length overcame his resolution, and he was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury in May, 1691. Immediately after, Tillotson was sworn of the Privy Council, when he set about the duties of his high office with the same religious zeal, tempered by moderation, as had adorned his former life.

Soon after that event, the Primate was insulted by incendiary letters and the grossest libels, yet his christian

spirit never forsook him. That a man whose blameless life should at once become the object of unmerited detraction, can only be accounted for from the enmity of political opposition, and that envy attendant upon a high station; and although such unmerited treatment from his enemies probably disturbed his internal quiet, it had no influence on his conduct. He did not survive his advancement much more than three years, a period too short for effecting important changes, which should always be gradual, and almost imperceptible. While attending divine service at Whitehall, on Sunday, November 18th, 1694, Tillotson was seized with the palsy, the fit being slow in its advances, but fatal in its effect. His articulation became indistinct, but his soul shone serene and calm amidst the conflict, for in broken words he thanked his Maker that he had put his conscience at ease, and had nothing further to do but await the will of heaven. Archbishop Tillotson was buried at the church of St. Lawrence, Jewry, where he had formerly displayed his powerful eloquence, and attracted the attention of an admiring public.

NOVEMBER THE NINETEENTH.

Death of King Kenwolfe, 800.

Kenwolfe, thirteenth Prince of the Mercians, and eighteenth monarch of Britain, succeeded Egfrýd in 795, and proved a brilliant example of piety and justice. He was temperate, humble, and courteous without ostentation; studious to enrich his subjects in peace, and firm and courageous in war, which attributes crowned his belligerent efforts with complete success. He subdued the kingdom of Kent, which he bestowed on Cuthred, and retained Pren, their monarch, a captive in Mercia. Kenwolfe founded the monastery of Winchcombe, in Gloucestershire, where he led Pren to the altar, and nobly restored him to freedom without a ransom, or even having been entreated to the performance of that generous act. He died in 800, in the 22nd year

of his reign, and was buried at Winchcombe, leaving one son and two daughters.

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#### NOVEMBER THE TWENTIETH.

*Sheriffs appointed to govern the city of London, 1189.*  
*—Public entrance of Henry the Third into London,*  
*1217.—Defeat of the French by Hawke, 1759.*

This being the first year of the reign of Richard the First, the citizens of London obtained the right to nominate two officers for the government of the city, whom they designated by the title of Bailiffs, or Sheriffs, whose powers continue in force to the present day.

King Henry the Third made his public entrance into London; upon which occasion, he solemnly swore to maintain the people in their ancient privileges, when the pope's legate proceeded to punish those ecclesiastics, who had supported the invasion of England by the Dauphin of France. The bishop of Lincoln, in consequence, disbursed for the pope's use 1000 marks, and 100 to the legate, whose example being followed by many other church dignitaries, and religious persons, immense sums were raised for the papal see. Alexander, King of Scotland, who had previously reduced Northumberland, and done homage to Louis, the Dauphin, for which he had been excommunicated, was absolved by the legate on repairing to Northampton, where he delivered up Carlisle to his holiness, and did homage to Henry the Third.

Admiral Hawke having encountered the French fleet off Belleisle, an action took place, in which the latter were defeated; and Hawke returned to England to enjoy the honours awarded him for that gallant exploit.

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NOVEMBER THE TWENTY-FIRST.

Capture of Porto Bello, 1739.

The gallant Admiral Vernon, a member of the British

Parliament, in a speech delivered in the House of Commons declared that, with a few ships, he would undertake the reduction of Porto Bello, in South America. Forces were, in consequence, furnished the brave Vernon for that purpose, who completely succeeded in accomplishing that boasted and most daring enterprize, which event occurred on the present day, and was the cause of new ardor being infused throughout the English nation for prosecuting with vigour the Spanish war. The expedition, however, against Carthagea not proving so fortunate, the murmurs of the nation were renewed with more violence than before, and the result proved destructive to Walpole; who, being too vehemently attacked by the opposition, resigned his post, and was succeeded by Lord Carteret.

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**NOVEMBER THE TWENTY-SECOND.**

*King John's Parliament met at Lincoln, 1200.*

King John convened a famous parliament at Lincoln, where William, King of Scotland, surnamed the Lion, a prince of consummate valour and great justice, who had been captured in battle by the English, did homage to John in sight of all the people.

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NOVEMBER THE TWENTY-THIRD.

Ireland erected into a Kingdom, 1542.

Ireland, by the parliament of that country, was by a solemn act erected into a kingdom, which the English legislature confirmed, and Henry the Eighth thereupon assumed to himself the title of King of Ireland.

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**NOVEMBER THE TWENTY-FOURTH.**

*Battle of Solway, 1542.—Earl Morton made Regent of Scotland, 1572.—Indictment for High Treason preferred against Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, 1681.*

Henry the Eighth having confided the command of

his forces against Scotland to the Duke of Norfolk, that nobleman marched to meet the enemy, whom he encountered at Solway; where the Scotch sustained a complete overthrow, losing many men in killed, wounded, and prisoners, with twenty-four pieces of ordnance.

As there was no competitor against the Earl of Morton, who was powerfully supported by Elizabeth of England in his claim, notwithstanding the apprehensions of the Scottish people, and the jealousy of the nobles, he was appointed to the regency; having been the fourth, who, in the short space of five years, had assumed that most dangerous office.

An indictment for high treason was preferred against Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, at the Old Bailey, for having formed an association in order to exclude the Duke of York, by force, from the succession; to destroy the King's guard, and compel his Majesty to submit to such terms as the conspirators should think fit to impose upon him. Those charges, though positively proved by eight witnesses, and the association itself found among the Earl's papers, the grand jury notwithstanding, having been packed by the Whig Sheriffs, ignored the bill, and returned *ignoramus* to the infinite satisfaction of the city. A medal was, therefore, struck on the occasion, bearing the Earl's effigies on one side, and upon the reverse the sun behind a cloud, darting its rays on the city of London.

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NOVEMBER THE TWENTY-FIFTH.

The Earl of Strafford committed to the Tower, 1640.

The articles of impeachment against the Earl of Strafford having been carried up to the House of Peers by Mr. Pym, that ill-fated nobleman was committed a close prisoner to the Tower of London.

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**NOVEMBER THE TWENTY-SIXTH.**

*The Liturgy voted useless, 1644.*

The Directory was this day established by the factions

in conjunction with the Scots, when, not only the Common Prayer, but the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments were voted of no utility; shortly after which an ordinance was issued for turning Christmas day into a fast.

**NOVEMBER THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.***Death of Knox, the Scottish Reformer, 1572.*

Soon after the dissolution of the General Assembly of Scotland, Knox, the prime instrument in spreading and establishing the reformed religion in Scotland, ended his life in the sixty-seventh year of his age. Zeal, intrepidity, and disinterestedness were virtues which he possessed in an eminent degree. He was also acquainted with the learning cultivated among divines in that age, and excelled in that species of eloquence which is calculated to rouse and inflame. His maxims, however, were often too severe; and the impetuosity of his temper excessive. Rigid and uncompromising himself, he showed no indulgence to the infirmities of others. Regardless of the distinctions of rank and character, he uttered his admonitions with an acrimony and vehemence, more apt to irritate than reclaim, which often betrayed him into indecent and undutiful expressions with respect to the queen's person and conduct. Those very qualities, however, which now render his character less amiable, fitted him to be the instrument of Providence for advancing the Reformation among a fierce people, and enabling him to face dangers and to surmount opposition, from which a person of a more gentle spirit would have been apt to shrink.

By an unwearied application to study and business, as well as the frequency and fervour of his public discourses, he had worn out a constitution naturally robust. During a lingering illness, Knox displayed the utmost fortitude, and met the approaches of dissolution with a magnanimity inseparable from his character. He was constantly employed in acts of devotion, and comforted himself with those prospects of immortality, which not only preserve



good men from despondency, but inspire them with exultation in their last moments. The Earl of Morton, who was present at this dignitary's funeral, pronounced his eulogium in a few words, the more honorable for Knox, as they proceeded from one whom he had often censured with peculiar severity:—"There lies he who never feared the face of man."



#### NOVEMBER THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.

*The Earl of Warwick beheaded, 1449.*

Edward Plantagenet, Earl of Warwick, eldest son of George, Duke of Clarence, and Isabel Nevil, nephew to King Edward the Fourth, was born in the castle of Warwick, and after the death of his father, created Earl of Warwick. He was, from his childhood, unfortunate, having during infancy been nursed in a prison. Soon after the death of his uncle, King Edward, he was, by Richard, Duke of Gloucester, his remaining uncle, committed to the castle of Sheriff Hutton, in the county of York; it being Richard's intention to murder his two nephews, and thus secure to himself the throne.

At the above castle Edward Plantagenet remained until the defeat and death of Richard the Third; when Henry the Seventh, immediately after the battle of Bosworth, and prior to his departure from Leicester, sent Sir Robert Willoughby, Knight, to Sheriff Hutton, for the Earl of Warwick, then only fifteen years of age, who was instantly imprisoned in the Tower of London, where he remained till his death, which occurred in the following manner:—"It happened," says my authority, "that a cordwainer's son, named Ralph Wilford, being seduced by an Augustine friar to take upon himself the name and person of this Earl Edward, gave out that he had lately escaped from prison, which created a great tumult among the Commons, who rejoiced to hear that a branch of the Plantagenets was to be restored to the imperial diadem. It happened, most unfortunately, that at the same time, the Earl of Warwick had consulted with Perkin Warbeck,

then counterfeiting Richard, Duke of York, at that time also imprisoned in the Tower by order of Henry the Seventh, about their escape ; which being discovered, this unfortunate prince was shortly after arraigned before the Earl of Oxford, then high steward of England ; not simply for having endeavoured to escape, but conspiring with Perkin to raise a sedition and destroy the King. The young earl having confessed to the indictment, judgment was passed upon him the 21st of November, and he was executed upon Tower Hill the 28th of the same month, A. D. 1499. This last branch of the Plantagenets was in the fifteenth of Henry the Seventh attainted in parliament, the better to excuse that sanguinary deed : so that all the favor showed to his memory was, that his ashes should be conveyed to the abbey of Birham, in the county of Berks, and there interred with those of his ancestors.

Nothing could quench the vindictive spirit of Henry the Seventh towards a descendant of the house of York ; so that it was generally believed Perkin Warbeck was merely the bait to entrap this unfortunate Earl. The King subsequently laid the whole act upon Ferdinand, King of Spain, producing letters concerning the treaty of marriage between Prince Arthur and that monarch's daughter, wherein was plainly declared Ferdinand's apprehension of an interrupted succession, so long as the Earl of Warwick lived, and his consequent unwillingness to expose his daughter to such danger. Thus, although Henry removed a portion of the odium from himself, he nevertheless brought a malediction upon the marriage which succeeded ; as Prince Arthur lived only a short time after his nuptials, and the Lady Catherine continued unhappy ever after.

Such was the end of this noble and commiserated prince, Edward, Earl of Warwick, in whom the male line of the Plantagenets became extinct, after having flourished in splendour from the period of Henry the Second ; being a space of three hundred and thirty-one years.

We have, on a former occasion, adverted to the Historic Doubts, published by the late Lord Orford ; and with all deference to the generally received opinion respecting

Perkin Warbeck having been an impostor, we are led to think, from consulting the above work, that there is as much reason to believe he was actually the Duke of York as otherwise. The celerity with which Henry the Seventh caused his death, without enquiring into the validity of his tale, and his being condemned, as it were, without trial, are powerful evidences in his favor; nor is the conviction entertained by the Earl of Warwick, his fellow in captivity, a less potent argument. Finally, the powerful individuals abroad who asserted his claims, and the researches of Lord Orford are sufficient to raise doubts that must leave the whole affair extremely problematical.

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NOVEMBER THE TWENTY-NINTH.

Execution of Mortimer, Earl of March, 1330.

Mortimer, Earl of March, was treated with the just rigour he deserved, and the impeachment brought before parliament, containing several heavy charges, viz.; that he assumed the government of the kingdom without authority, contrary to the express regulation of parliament; that he had placed spies about Edward the Second, and procured the death of that monarch, by his express orders; and that through his machinations, the late Earl of Kent, the king's uncle, lost his life; that he had appropriated to his own use £20,000. of the King's money; and lived in too familiar manner with Isabel, the queen-mother. For all which, Mortimer was condemned as a traitor; to be hanged; and drawn to the common gallows at Tyburn, which sentence was put into effect this 29th November, when his body hung exposed during two days and nights.

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#### NOVEMBER THE THIRTIETH.

##### *Death of Cardinal Wolsey, 1530.*

Cardinal Wolsey was arrested by the Earl of Northumberland, at the King's command, for high treason; and preparations were made for conducting him to London,



in order to take his trial. He at first refused to comply with the requisition, as being a cardinal; but finding the Earl bent on performing his commission, Wolsey complied, and set out by easy journeys for the capital, to appear as a criminal, where he had acted, in every sense of the word, as a monarch. In his way he staid a fortnight at the Earl of Shrewsbury's, where, one day at dinner, he was taken ill; not without violent suspicions of having poisoned himself. Being brought from thence, he, with much difficulty, gained Leicester Abbey, where the monks, going forth to meet him, the cardinal said, "Father abbot, I am come to lay my bones among you," and immediately ordered his bed to be prepared. As his disorder increased, an officer being placed near, both as his guard and attendant, he spoke to him a little before he expired, to the following effect: "I pray you have me heartily recommended to his majesty, he is a potentate of most royal carriage, and hath a princely heart, and rather than he will miss or want any part of his will, he would endanger one half of his kingdom."

"I do assure you, I have kneeled before him for three hours together, to persuade him from his will and appetite, but could not prevail. Had I but served God as diligently as I served the king, he would not have given me over in my gray hairs: but this is the just reward that I receive for my indulgent pains and study, not regarding my service to God, but only to my prince." Cardinal Wolsey expired soon after, a prey to all the pangs of remorse, and left a life, which he had all along rendered turbid by ambition, and wretched by mean assiduities. He left two natural children behind him, one of whom, being a priest, was loaded with church preferments.



#### DECEMBER THE FIRST.

*King Charles the First committed Prisoner to Hurst Castle, 1648.*

On the 30th of November, the unfortunate King Charles the First having been taken from the custody of Colonel

Hammond, by Colonel Ewer, was by the latter conveyed to Hurst Castle by virtue of an order of the council of officers in the army. The members of the House of Commons then desired the General to place Colonel Hammond in the Isle of Wight, and recal Ewer, but no notice was taken of such parliamentary command, which was speedily answered by a declaration on the part of the army against the Commons. In this state, matters continued until the 21st instant, when Charles the First, under the orders of Colonel Harrison, was conducted from Hurst Castle to Windsor, where he arrived on the 23rd of the present month, being the last removal of that ill-fated monarch prior to his arraignment, condemnation, and final end upon the scaffold.



#### DECEMBER THE SECOND.

*Death of King Henry the First, 1135.—Defeat of General Morgan, in America, 1780.*

King Henry the First having nominated the Empress Matilda his successor, died of a surfeit with eating lampreys, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, and thirty-sixth of his reign, at Lyons, near Rouen. He was embalmed and conveyed to England, and buried at Reading, having been the first King who caused the judges to go their circuit, and caused rivers to be joined for the purpose of facilitating navigation; viz. the Trent and the Witham from Yorkshire to Lincoln, a distance of seven miles. This prince also founded the Abbeys of Hide, Cirencester, and Reading, and the Priory of Dunstable, and solemnly confirmed Magna Charta. He held the first great council, by some writers esteemed the first English parliament, wherein the prohibiting priests from having wine and concubines was considered, and the bishops and clergy granted to the King the correction of them for that offence, by which means large sums were raised by compounding with the churchmen for certain annual payments to permit them the use of those natural enjoyments.

During this monarch's reign, wheat to make bread for



the support of one hundred men during a day, was valued at one shilling; a sheep, at fourpence; one hide of land, being as many acres as one team could plough, was taxed at a shilling per annum; and there being 244,400 hides south of the Humber, that impost amounted to £12,220, to which may be added about an-eighth for the lands north of that river.

Marquis Cornwallis encamped at Wynessborough, and dispatched Colonel Ferguson into the county of Tyron. At the period in question sickness raged with destructive violence in the British army, and the Americans taking advantage of that disaster, unexpectedly rushed down from the mountains upon the camp, when the good fortune of the Marquis happily did not abandon him, as the enemy were repulsed with great slaughter for their temerity. From thence the English moved towards North Carolina, having in a great measure recovered, and enjoying excellent spirits, when Major Craig was sent up the Catawba river, with three hundred men to reinforce his lordship, whose wish was, if possible, to bring Washington to an engagement. During that march, however, General Morgan was overtaken, who strove to effect a retreat on the approach of the British; they were, however, broken and pursued, during which, the American General Gordon, facing about, directed two terrible fires, which threw the English forces into some confusion. Cornwallis, notwithstanding, continued the pursuit of General Morgan across the Catawba river advancing to Salisbury, of which town he made himself master, and soon after engaged General Green, with an army of 6000 men, and gained a signal victory.

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DECEMBER THE THIRD.

*Income-Tax proposed by Mr. Pitt, 1798.*

On this day Mr. Pitt, in the House of Commons, proposed the famous Income-tax of ten per cent. on an estimate of £100,000,000; taking the land rental at £50,000,000; the houses at £5,000,000, and the

profits, arising from traffic, at £40,000,000. By the financial plan in question all incomes netting more than £60 annually were liable to an impost, while those that produced £200 and upwards, were subject to a yearly payment of ten per cent. to support the exigencies of the state.

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DECEMBER THE FOURTH.

Surrender of Latham House, 1645.—The Duke of York captured 130 sail of the Bordeaux Fleet from the Dutch, 1664.

Latham House having sustained a siege of more than two years against the Parliament forces, through the intrepid spirit of that glorious heroine the Countess of Derby, was this day forced to capitulate.

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The Duke of York returned from a cruize, having captured 130 Dutch merchant ships, and particularly their Bourdeaux fleet, on their return homeward, laden with wine and brandy. This proceeding, although prior to the declaration of war, was sufficiently justified by the Dutch Admiral De Ruyter having previously fallen upon the English factories at Cape Verd, on the coast of Africa, as well as his attempt to seize the island of Barbadoes, and several other English plantations. The depredations committed by the Dutch in the East Indies, and on the high seas, had also been frequent, in violation of every pacific principle, so that the present retaliation was fully justified by the law of nations.

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**DECEMBER THE FIFTH.**

*Death of Macbeth, 1056.*

Duncan the First, grandson of Malcolm, succeeded to the Scottish throne in 1040, who proved an excellent prince; but his mildness gave encouragement to the Highland rebels, and he was in consequence obliged to employ his kinsman Macbeth, grandson of Malcolm the Second,

his viceroy over those districts. Macbeth was very successful, and by his prowess in arms, having humbled the Danes, he felt the incitements of ambition, and began to aim at the throne, which was subsequently attained by the murder of his benefactor, Duncan, in the sixth year of his reign. Macbeth having thus attained his purpose, found it necessary to become tyrannical in order to secure his ill-acquired diadem; when the suffering nobility summoned home Malcolm Canmore, son of the murdered Duncan, who had fled for refuge to the court of Edward the Confessor, King of England, after his father's assassination. Aided therefore by forces accorded him by England, Malcolm marched to Scotland, and gave Macbeth battle at Dunsinane; in which conflict the tyrant fell this present day of December, A. D. 1056.

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DECEMBER THE SIXTH.

*Second landing of William the Conqueror, 1076.—
Birth of King Henry the Sixth, 1421.—The Duke
of Ormond seized by Colonel Blood, 1670.*

Eustace of Boulogne having landed at Dover the preceding month, in consequence of an invitation on the part of the English, who sought to redress their grievances, was notwithstanding overthrown, and the struggle for liberty rendered abortive. On the present day, therefore, William, apprised of the revolt, landed from France, and shortly after to avenge himself on the English for their recent attempt to throw off his yoke, he re-established the impost of Danegelt, which gave rise to a fresh revolt.

Henry the Sixth was born this day at Windsor, and proved a weak and unfortunate prince, being much more adapted for a cowl than to inherit a crown. The old King of France dying soon after Henry the Fifth, the present prince was inaugurated at Paris King of France, anno 1431; and his affairs continued to prosper until the siege of Orleans was raised by means of the heroic Joan of Arc; after which the English interest rapidly declined.

Nothing contributed more to expedite the English loss in France than our distractions at home, in consequence of Richard Duke of York laying claim to the crown, as descended from Lionel Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward the Third, and elder brother of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, which occasioned those disastrous civil wars in England; during which, no less than thirteen battles were fought with various successes. In the mean time the French shook off the English yoke; and in five years recovered their liberty, placing the Dauphin, Charles the Seventh, upon the throne of France. In the interim, England became a field of carnage; the Lancastrians espousing the cause of Henry the Sixth, then in possession of the crown, and the Yorkists opposing him; the former being distinguished by the red, and the latter by the white rose. Henry had espoused a princess of a martial and imperious spirit, Margaret of Anjou; who to maintain her husband on the throne, and secure the succession to his gallant son Prince Edward, left no arts untried. Richard of York fell at the battle of Wakefield, leaving three sons, viz. Edward, Clarence, and Richard Duke of Gloucester; the eldest of whom proving victor, at length succeeded to the English throne.

The Duke of Ormond was unexpectedly forced from his carriage during the night, and received a wound, being near Clarendon House, where he resided, and with infinite difficulty effected his escape from the assailants. This desperate attempt was headed by the famous Colonel Blood, he having designed to convey the Duke to Tyburn, where the assassins purported to hang his grace; for which attempt, however, no steps were taken against the contriver, who shortly afterwards became so famous by stealing the crown from the Tower of London.

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DECEMBER THE SEVENTH.

*Banquet in Westminster Hall, 1099.—Algernon Sidney decapitated, 1683.*

Among the various acts of William Rufus was his caus-

ing to be built Westminster Hall, being 270 feet in length, and 74 broad. Having spent the major part of the year 1098 in Normandy, that monarch returned to England; and the structure in question having been recently completed, he, on the present day of the year 1099, gave a splendid banquet in Westminster Hall, where the festival of Christmas was also solemnized with great magnificence.

Colonel Algernon Sidney was brought to trial, and being convicted of high treason, condemned the 26th of the preceding month, and beheaded the 7th of December on Tower Hill, glorying that he died for the *Good Old Cause*, in which he had been constantly engaged from his youth upwards. Algernon Sidney had been appointed one of the High Court of Justice, that sentenced King Charles the First to the block, but he did not sit on that occasion.

Sidney was the first man accused of treason and condemned to die, for writing what was never published. He delivered a memorial to the sheriff before his death, complaining of the injustice done him; in which document he represented the infamous life of Lord Howard, and accused his judges as being the most corrupt of men, and only suborned to forward the designs of an arbitrary court.

#### DECEMBER THE NINETH.

*Birth of Mary Queen of Scots, 1542.—Death of John Pym, 1643.*

Mary Stuart, who was this day born, succeeded her father James the Fifth, in 1543, and married, first, the dauphin of France, afterwards Francis the Second; by whom she had no issue. On the demise of that prince, she married Henry Stuart, Duke of Albany, Lord Darnley, son of the Earl of Lenox, and in right of his mother, the Lady Margaret Douglas; great grandson to Henry the Seventh of England, first prince of the English blood royal.

Mary was a princess of rare beauty and accomplishments, and received an education in France, which greatly influenced her in favour of the Roman Catholic religion. Her inherent love of arbitrary power also caused the nobility to fly to arms, and ultimately dethroned her. This unfortunate princess in 1536 suffered decapitation by order of Elizabeth, for having, as it is said, engaged in a plot against that Queen, whose legitimacy being questioned by the popish factions, Mary of Scotland was by the papists regarded as rightful claimant of the English crown.


John Pym, who had so signalized himself against the Earl of Strafford and his royal master, as to merit the appellation of an incendiary, died on the present day. He was a man possessed of considerable talent, though by no means a brilliant orator, and from his great popularity and unbounded influence with the deluded multitude, was generally known by the name of King Pym.

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DECEMBER THE NINTH.

Death of Wickliffe, 1384.

Wickliffe falling into a dangerous illness at Oxford, some of the mendicant friars to whom he had ever been an enemy, intruded into his chamber and exhorted him, for the good of his soul, to repent of the injuries which he had done them. Wickliffe raised himself in his bed, and with a stern countenance exclaimed, "I shall not die, but live to declare the evil deeds of the friars;" which resolute expressions, we are told, drove away his ghostly monitors in confusion.


Some time after this he finished his translation of the Scriptures, and again became particularly obnoxious to the clergy on that account. It had long been a political tenet in the Romish creed, that ignorance is the mother of devotion; and therefore the Bible had been locked up from the common people; but Wickliffe was not satisfied with aiming this new blow at religious tyranny; he next ventured to attack the grand article of transubstantiation, in



what he called his sixteen conclusions. These conclusions being reluctantly condemned by the Chancellor of Oxford, at the instigation of Courtenay, who was now primate, Wickliffe appealed to the King and Parliament; but being deserted by his fickle patron, the Duke of Lancaster, who was unwilling to embroil himself any further with the clergy, he was obliged to make a kind of recantation at Oxford, and by the King's order was expelled the university, where he had still continued annually to read lectures in divinity.

Again he found an asylum at Lutterworth, but giving fresh provocation by his writings, he roused the keenest resentment in Urban, who then wore the papal crown, and in all probability would have suffered the utmost which that pontiff could inflict, had not Providence delivered him from human hands. He was struck with palsy soon after; but still attended divine worship, till a repetition of this fatal malady carried him off in the church of Lutterworth in December 1384. He was buried there; but after laying more than forty years unmolested, his bones were taken up and burnt, and the ashes scattered in the air by order of the reigning pope. Such was the life, and such the end of Wickliffe, a man who may be regarded as one of the brightest ornaments of his country, and as one of those luminaries which Providence raises up and directs as its instrument to enlighten and bless mankind.

“To this intuitive genius,” says Gilpin, “Christianity was unquestionably more obliged than to any name in the list of reformers. He opened the gates of darkness, and let in, not a public glimmering ray, but such an effulgence of light as was never afterwards obscured. He not only loosened prejudices, but advanced such clear uncontested truths as having once obtained footing, still kept their ground; and even in an age of reformation, as will appear from his various existing writings, wanted but small amendment.”



with the title of Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and of the dominions and territories belonging thereto.



DECEMBER THE THIRTEENTH.

Death of James the Fifth of Scotland, 1542.

James the Fifth of Scotland, felt himself engaged in an unnecessary war with England, which, instead of yielding him the laurels and triumphs he had expected, commenced with such inauspicious circumstances, as encouraged the insolence of his subjects, and exposed him to the scorn of his enemies. He saw how vain and ineffectual all his projects to humble the nobles had been, and that, though in times of peace, a prince may endeavour to depress them, they will rise, during war, to their former importance and dignity. Impatience, resentment, indignation, filled his bosom by turns. The violence of these passions not only altered his temper, but, perhaps, impaired his reason, and he became pensive, sullen, and retired. He seemed through the day to be swallowed up in profound meditation, and at night, was disturbed with those visionary terrors which only make impression upon a weak understanding, or a disordered fancy. In order to revive the king's spirits, an inroad on the western borders was concerted by his ministers, who prevailed upon the barons in the neighbouring provinces to raise as many troops as were thought necessary, and enter the enemy's country. But nothing could remove the king's aversion to his nobility, or diminish his jealousy of their power. James would not even intrust them with the command of the forces which they had assembled, reserving that honour for Oliver Sinclair, his favourite, who no sooner appeared to take possession of the dignity conferred upon him, than rage and indignation occasioned a universal mutiny in the army. Five hundred English, who happened to be drawn up in sight of those forces, attacked the Scotch during the disorder, when hatred towards the king, and contempt of their general, produced an effect to which there is no



parallel in history. They overcame the fear of death, and the love of liberty, and ten thousand men fled before a number so far inferior, without striking a single blow. No man was desirous of a victory which would have been acceptable to the king and his favourite, and few endeavoured to save themselves by flight, so that the English had the choice of what prisoners they pleased to take, and almost every person of distinction, who was engaged in the expedition, remained in their hands. This astonishing event was a fresh proof to the king of the general disaffection of the nobility, and a new discovery of his own weakness and want of authority. Incapable of bearing those repeated insults, he found himself unable to revenge them, and the deepest melancholy and despair succeeded to the furious transports of rage, which the first account of the rout of his army had occasioned. All those violent passions, therefore, which are the deadly enemies of life, preyed upon his mind, and wasted and consumed a youthful and vigorous constitution. Some authors of that age, impute James's untimely death to poison; but the diseases of the mind, when they rise to an height, often prove mortal; and the known effects of disappointment, anger, and resentment upon a sanguinary and impetuous temper, sufficiently account for this prince's unhappy fate. "His death," says Drummond, "prove his mind to have been raised to a high strain, and above mediocrity; he could die, but could not digest a disaster." Had James survived this misfortune, one of two things must have happened, either the violence of his temper would have engaged him openly to attack the nobles, who would have found in Henry the Eighth a willing and powerful protector, and have derived the same assistance from him which the malcontents in the succeeding reign did from his daughter Elizabeth; in that case a dangerous civil war must have been the certain consequence; or perhaps necessity might have obliged him to accept of Henry's offers, and be reconciled to his nobility. In that event the church would have fallen a sacrifice to their union; a reformation upon Henry's plan would have

been established by law ; a great part of the temporalities of the church would have been seized, and the friendship of the king and barons would have been cemented by dividing its spoils.

**DECEMBER THE FOURTEENTH.**

Return of the Duke of Marlborough with Count Tallard,
1704.

The battle of Hockstet proved one of the most glorious and complete victories that was ever obtained ; 10,000 French and Bavarians were left dead upon the field ; the greater part of 30 squadrons of horse and dragoons perished in the river Danube ; 13,000 were made prisoners ; 100 pieces of cannon were taken, with 24 mortars, 129 colours, 171 standards, 17 pair of kettle-drums, 3,600 tents, 34 coaches, 300 laden mules, 2 bridges of boats, 15 pontoons, 15 barrels and 8 casks filled with silver. Of the allies, about 4,500 men were slain, and about 8,000 wounded and taken. The loss of the battle was imputed to two capital errors committed by Tallard : the one by weakening his centre by detaching so many of his troops to the village of Blenheim ; the other by permitting the confederates to pass the rivulet, and form unmolested. The Duke of Marlborough rode through the hottest of the battle with calm intrepidity, and gave his orders with that presence of mind and deliberation which were so peculiar to his character. When he next day visited Tallard, he remarked that he was sorry such a misfortune should happen personally to one for whom he had a profound esteem. Tallard congratulated him upon having vanquished the best troops in the world : the duke replied, that he thought his own troops the best in the world, seeing they had conquered those upon whom the mareschal had bestowed such an encomium.

The Duke of Marlborough returned to England accompanied by Marshal Tallard and many other distinguished characters, bearing also with him the colours and standards taken on that memorable occasion, which

were hung up in Westminster Hall. Count Tallard, and a portion of the prisoners were sent to Nottingham, and the rest to Lichfield. On that occasion, Marlborough again received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament.

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**DECEMBER THE FIFTEENTH.**

*Trial of John Knox, 1563.*

During the absence of Mary Queen of Scots on a progress into the west, mass continued to be celebrated in her chapel at Holyrood-house. The multitude of those who openly resorted thither, gave great offence to the citizens of Edinburgh, who, being free from the restraint which the royal presence imposed, assembled in a riotous manner, interrupted the service, and filled such as were present with the utmost consternation. Two of the ring-leaders in this tumult were seized, and a day appointed for their trial. Knox, who deemed the zeal of these persons laudable, and their conduct meritorious, considered them as sufferers in a good cause; and in order to screen them from danger, he issued circular letters, requiring all who professed the true religion, or were concerned for the preservation of it, to assemble at Edinburgh, on the day of trial, that by their presence they might comfort and assist their distressed brethren. One of these letters fell into the queen's hands. To assemble subjects without the authority of the sovereign, was construed to be treason, and a resolution was taken to prosecute Knox for that crime, before the privy-council. Happily for him, his judges were not only zealous Protestants, but the very men who, during the late commotions, had openly resisted and set at defiance the queen's authority. It was under precedents, drawn from their own conduct, that Knox endeavoured to shelter himself. Nor would it have been an easy matter for these counsellors to have found out a distinction, by which they could censure him without condemning themselves. After a long hearing, to the astonishment of Lethington and the other courtiers, he was unani-



mously acquitted. Sinclair, bishop of Ross, and president of the court of session, a zealous Papist, heartily concurred with the other counsellors in this decision ; a remarkable fact, which shews the unsettled state of government in that age ; the low condition to which regal authority was then sunk ; and the impunity with which subjects might invade those rights of the crown which are now held sacred.



#### DECEMBER THE SIXTEENTH.

*The Instrument of Writing, as it was called ; and Cromwell made Protector, 1653.*

The Council of Officers sent for the Commissioners of the Great Seal, with the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London, and caused to be read a document, called “ The Instrument of Writing, whereupon Cromwell was made Protector.”

The same afternoon, his highness attended by a strong guard of soldiers, and all the grand officers of state, with the Lord Mayor and aldermen of London, proceeded from Whitehall to Westminster Hall, where a chair of state being set for him in the Chancery court, he stood on the left of the same uncovered, while a large writing on parchment was read, containing the power with which his Excellency was invested, how he was to govern the three nations, and the oath to be taken by him. Having signed that writing, and taken the oath tendered to him by Lisle, one of the commissioners of the broad seal, his Excellency sat down in the chair of state uncovered, when the commissioners delivered up the broad seal to him, and the Lord Mayor his sword, which Cromwell immediately returned, and the court rising, went to Whitehall, the Lord Mayor uncovered, carrying the sword before the Protector in grand procession.

By the aforesaid instrument of government, it was provided : “ That the supreme legislative power should be lodged in the Protector and his council, who were not to exceed the number of twenty-one, nor be under

thirteen ; that all writs, commissions, and patents should run in the name of the Lord Protector ; all honors and offices to be derived from him ; that he should have the power of pardon, except for murder or treason, and the benefit of all forfeitures ; that he should order the militia and forces by sea and land, by consent of Parliament. That a Parliament should be summoned once in every third year ; and not be dissolved or prorogued in less than five months, without their consent ; that the members for England should not exceed four hundred, for Scotland thirty, and for Ireland thirty.

**DECEMBER THE SEVENTEENTH.***Coronation of King Henry the Second, 1155.*

Henry the Second, grandson of Henry the First, and Maude, daughter of Henry the First, by Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou, succeeded King Stephen. As Henry the First was a Norman, and his mother descended from the Saxon King Edmund, surnamed Ironside, the Norman and Saxon bloods in his person, were united. His father Geoffrey Plantagenet was Earl of Anjou, Touraine, and Maine, and those French provinces became in his own right subject to the crown of England ; to which was added, the dukedom of Aquitaine, including Poitou, Guienne, and Gascony, in right of Eleanor, his wife. Henry the Second also recovered Cumberland and Westmoreland from the Scots, to whom those two counties had been subjected above 200 years, and he also subdued the Welsh, and conquered Ireland. He proved a great prince, but was unhappy in having a jealous queen and undutiful sons, whom she influenced to rebel against him. During a journey the King undertook to Normandy, Eleanor seized the opportunity of gratifying her revenge upon Fair Rosamond, whom he had concealed in Woodstock Bower, by administering poison, according to some historians, for which act the Queen was imprisoned during the life of Henry.

Thomas-a-Becket equally proved a source of great mi-

sery to Henry, for many enormities having been committed by the clergy, and Becket having refused to punish them, he was banished by the King; but being recalled, and still refractory, that proud ecclesiastic was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by four courtiers on Christmas-day. It was during this King's reign that the splendid monastery of Glastonbury was burnt by lightning. Henry the Second ruled thirty-five years, and died at Chenon in Normandy, and was buried at Font Evard.

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DECEMBER THE EIGHTEENTH.

Trial of Thomas Paine for a Libel, 1792.

This celebrated cause came on before Lord Kenyon and a special jury at Guildhall. Thomas Paine was indicted for writing and publishing a certain seditious pamphlet, under the title of "The Second Part of the Rights of Man." The information, which was opened by Mr. Percival, stated that Thomas Paine, being a wicked, malicious, seditious, and ill-disposed person, and disaffected to the king and government, had traduced the happy Revolution effected by the Prince of Orange, afterwards King William the Third, the acceptance of the crown by the said Prince and Queen Mary; the Convention Parliament, which had conferred the crown on their said majesties; and the Bill of Rights, including the Settlement of the Succession;—that he had endeavoured to represent, that these were respectively contrary to the rights and interests of the people; that our hereditary Regal Government was a wicked, corrupt, and unnecessary establishment; that the King, Lords, and Commons, tyrannized over the people; and that thus he had endeavoured to impose groundless discontents against the King and Parliament, as well as against our Constitution, Laws, and Government.

The Attorney General then rose, and, in the course of a long and able speech, read several passages from the work in support of the information, and contended that the whole throughout was malignant in the intention of the writer, and extremely mischievous in its tendency.

The publication, &c. being proved, Mr. Erskine entered into a very long defence of the author, on the general grounds of the freedom of the press; contending, that his client had not gone beyond the bounds of fair and allowable discussion; that the topics on which he had animadverted, had been treated with far greater force of expression by the Duke of Richmond, Mr. Pitt, Sir George Saville, Mr. Burke, &c.; illustrating his observations by various quotations from Locke, Hume, Milton, Paley, and others; and deprecating the spirit of prejudice that had gone forth against his client.

When he had finished, the Attorney General rose immediately to reply; but the foreman of the jury said, "My Lord, I am authorised by the jury to inform the Attorney General, that a reply is not necessary for them, unless the Attorney General wishes to make it, or your Lordship." The Attorney General then sat down, and the jury gave in their verdict—*Guilty*.



DECEMBER THE NINETEENTH.

Last Appeal of Mary Queen of Scots to Elizabeth, 1586.

After the publication of the sentence, Mary was stripped of every remaining mark of royalty. The canopy of state in her apartment was pulled down; Paulet entered her chamber, and approached her person without any ceremony; and even appeared covered in her presence. Shocked with these indignities, and offended at this gross familiarity, to which she had never been accustomed, Mary once more complained to Elizabeth; and at the same time, as her last request, entreated that she would permit her servants to carry her dead body into France, to be laid among her ancestors in hallowed ground; that some of her domestics might be present at her death, to bear witness of her innocence, and firm adherence to the Catholic faith; that all her servants might be suffered to leave the kingdom, and to enjoy those small legacies which she should bestow on them, as testimonies of her

affection; and that, in the mean time, her almoner, or some other Catholic priest, might be allowed to attend her, and to assist her in preparing for an eternal world. She besought her, in the name of Jesus, by the soul and memory of Henry the Seventh, their common progenitor, by their near consanguinity, and the royal dignity with which they were both invested, to gratify her in these particulars, and to indulge her so far as to signify her compliance by a letter under her own hand. Whether Mary's letter was ever delivered to Elizabeth is uncertain. No answer was returned, and no regard paid to her requests. She was offered a Protestant bishop or dean to attend her. Those she rejected, and without any clergyman to direct her devotions, she prepared, in great tranquillity, for the approach of death, which she now believed to be at no great distance.



DECEMBER THE TWENTIETH.

Death of Ethelbald the Second, 860.—His present Majesty King George the Fourth appointed Regent, 1810.

Ethelbald succeeded his father, and notwithstanding he opposed him for espousing the Emperor Charles's daughter, yet after his death, contrary to all laws, he married her himself. This reign was not remarkable for any event of importance, or characterized by any action worthy record, except the monarch being ultimately brought to a sense of his fault in marrying his step-mother, for which he was obliged to make his peace with the priests, by donations to monasteries, abbeys, and other religious foundations.

Ethelbald reigned two years and a half, and left his whole kingdom to his brother Ethelbert. He died this 20th of December, 860, and was buried first at Sherburne, in Dorsetshire, and afterwards removed to Salisbury.

The House of Commons, in a Committee, passed a bill for appointing the Princes of Wales Regent during the indisposition of his late Majesty King George the Third; but

under certain restrictions during the first year of the Regency.

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DECEMBER THE TWENTY-FIRST.

*Fates of the Earls of Westmoreland and Northumberland, concerned in the Conspiracy of the Duke of Norfolk, 1569.*

Queen Elizabeth, though not fully aware of the designs of the Earls of Westmoreland and Northumberland, commanded their attendance at court; who, being conscious of guilt and fearing discovery, delayed to comply.

The conduct of this negotiation occasioned many meetings and messages between the two earls. Elizabeth was informed of these; and though she suspected nothing of their real design, she concluded that they were among the number of Norfolk's confidants. They were summoned, for this reason, to repair to court. Conscious of guilt, and afraid of discovery, they delayed giving obedience. A second, and more peremptory order was issued. This they could not decline, without shaking off their allegiance; and, as no time was left for deliberation, they instantly erected their standard against their sovereign. The re-establishing the Catholic religion; the settling the order of succession to the crown; the defence of the ancient nobility; were the motives which they alleged to justify their rebellion. Many of the lower people flocked to them with such arms as they could procure; and, had the capacity of their leaders been in any degree equal to the enterprise, it must have soon grown to be extremely formidable. Elizabeth acted with prudence and vigour, and was served by her subjects with fidelity and ardour. On the first rumour of an insurrection, Mary was removed to Coventry, a place of strength, which could not be taken without a regular siege; and a detachment of the rebels, sent to rescue her, returned without success. Troops were assembled in different parts of the kingdom; as they advanced, the malcontents retired. In their retreat, their spirits sunk. Despair and uncertainty

whither to direct their flight, kept together for some time a small body of them among the mountains of Northumberland; but they were at length obliged to disperse, and the chiefs took refuge among the Scottish borderers. The two earls, together with the countess of Northumberland, wandering for some days in the wastes of Liddisdale, were plundered by the banditti, exposed to the rigour of the season, and left destitute of the necessaries of life. Westmoreland was concealed by Scott of Buccleugh and Ker of Fernihurst, and afterward conveyed into the Netherlands. Northumberland was seized this day by the regent, who had marched with some troops towards the borders, to prevent any impression the rebels might make on those mutinous provinces.



#### DECEMBER THE TWENTY-SECOND.

*Cardinal Wolsey appointed Lord Chancellor, 1515.*

Henry the Eighth appointed his favourite Wolsey to the Chancellorship of England, and loaded him with favors. Being Archbishop of York and the Pope's legate, he became Prime Minister of State, and held, at the same time, the bishoprics of York, Winchester, and Durham, the abbies of St. Alban's and Lincoln, numerous priories and other great benefices *in commendam*, while the bishoprics of Bath, Worcester, and Hereford he possessed in farm. Wolsey had likewise the disposal of all ecclesiastical benefices; so that his revenues were computed to vie with those of the crown.



#### DECEMBER THE TWENTY-THIRD.

*Abdication of King James the Second, 1688.*

James the Second embarked on board a small frigate, with the Duke of Berwick, his natural son, and Abodie, a Frenchman, and landed safe at Ambletuse, in France, from whence he proceeded to St. Germain. He left a paper behind bearing date the 22nd instant; explaining his reasons for such abdication.

It was therein stated, that "the world could not be astonished at his flight, after the Prince of Orange made the Earl of Feversham prisoner, whom he had sent to treat with him in a friendly manner; and commanded his own guards to take possession of Whitehall, at 11 o'clock at night, sending him (James the Second) an order at midnight when he was in bed, to be gone without delay." After such conduct, James remarked, that he had little to hope for from one who had invaded his kingdom, and called the legitimacy of his son in question; after which, he appealed to all who knew him, even to the prince himself, whether he could conscientiously believe him guilty of so unnatural a villainy.

The Prince of Orange having received intelligence of the King's departure, published an order, requiring all those who had served as members in any of the Parliaments held in the reign of Charles the Second, to meet him at St. James's on the 26th instant, together with the Aldermen and Common Council of London.

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DECEMBER THE TWENTY-FOURTH.

Treaty between Henry the Fifth of England, and Charles the Sixth of France, 1419.—Battle of Wakefield, 1460.

The second treaty of peace was ratified between Henry the Fifth and Charles the Sixth of France, whereby it was stipulated that the former should espouse the Princess Catherine, daughter of the French monarch, and have the regency of France during the life of Charles, and succeed him after his death; when the French nobility swore fealty to the English King.

Queen Margaret was, to all appearance, destitute of resources; her armies were routed, her husband a prisoner, and the Parliament disclaimed her cause. Yet, notwithstanding that princess seemed to have lost all, she still retained her native intrepidity and perseverance. The queen was a woman possessing an intrepid mind

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daughter and heiress to Eustace, Earl of Boulogne, who was the founder of St. Catherine's Hospital, near the Tower of London, and died in 1151.

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**DECEMBER THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.**

*A solemn fast held by the Puritans to beg the Lord's direction how to proceed against King Charles the First, 1648.*

A solemn fast was held at Westminster to seek the Lord, and beg his direction in their proceedings against the King. Hugh Peters, on that occasion, told the audience, he had found upon a strict scrutiny, that there were in the army 5000 saints, no less holy than those that conversed in heaven with God Almighty. Then, kneeling down, he begged in the name of the people of England, that justice might be executed upon that great Barabbas at Windsor, alluding to the unfortunate Charles the First. The text of that fanatic was, "Such honor have all his saints;" and another, "They shall bind their King in chains." Peters also insisted that the deliverance of the people by the army was greater than that of the children of Israel from the house of bondage in Egypt.

The members going directly from Church to the House of Commons, it was there moved to proceed capitally against the King; on which Cromwell said, that "as he was praying for a blessing from God, on his undertaking to restore the King to his pristine Majesty, his tongue cleaved to the roof of his mouth, so that he could not speak one word more, which he took for a return of his prayers, and that God had rejected Charles from being king. To strengthen that conceit of Cromwell, an inspired virgin was brought out of Hertfordshire, who declared that she had had a revelation from God, requiring her to encourage them to go on with their design.

The Presbyterians protesting against the King's trial, Cromwell rebuked them, that their endeavouring

to take away the King's life by sword and pistol, depriving him of his authority, and imprisoning him, was still more against all laws human and divine, than the bringing the King to a legal trial before the representatives of the people; from whom all lawful princes derived their authority.

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DECEMBER THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.

Dedication of St. Peter's, Westminster, 1065.—Death of Queen Mary, 1694.

The Abbey Church of St. Peter's, Westminster, having been rebuilt by Edward the Confessor, the dedication of that structure was performed on this day; and it is said, that the charter and privileges granted on that occasion, was the first to which the great seal of England was attached. The structure in question was subsequently demolished by Henry the Third; after which, the fabric, as it now stands, was erected.

Queen Mary, consort of William the Third, died, to the great grief of the monarch, and the English people, having been a princess admired throughout Europe for perfections of body and mind. Her funeral was solemnized with the greatest pomp and solemnity, and a stately mausoleum kept standing for a length of time in Westminster Abbey, in which fane she was interred.

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**DECEMBER THE TWENTY-NINTH.**

*Revenue awarded to King Charles the Second, 1661.*

The Convention of Parliament was dissolved, having passed several acts for increasing the King's revenue, and another for establishing a post-office. The revenue then settled upon the crown was £1,200,000 per annum; that sum being awarded to defray the charges of the navy, guards, garrisons, civil list, and, indeed, the whole expences of the government; for which Cromwell had

levied annually three times that sum by his own authority; this grant being confirmed by a vote of the parliament. Parliament, it is said, would have given the King £2,000,000 per annum, if the ministers had required that sum; but Lord Clarendon opposed the measure, lest parliament should become useless; and many writers have conceived that his Lordship, on that account, was the preserver of the Constitution. It is also stated, that the conduct in question drew upon that nobleman the resentment of the cavaliers, whose slender revenues rendered it impossible for the King to relieve those, who had lost their all in defence of the crown.

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DECEMBER THE THIRTIETH.

Assassination of Thomas-a-Becket, 1172.

Henry the Second was in Normandy while the primate, Becket, was triumphantly paraded through the kingdom; and it was not without the utmost indignation, that he received information of the turbulent insolence of that overbearing churchman. When the suspended and excommunicated prelates arrived with their complaints, this monarch's anger knew no bounds. He broke forth into the most acrimonious expressions against Thomas-a-Becket, whom he had raised from the lowest station, to be the plague of his life, and the continual disturber of his government. The archbishop of York then remarked to him, that so long as Becket lived, he never could expect to enjoy peace or tranquility; and the king himself burst into this exclamation, "That he had no friend about him, or he would not so long have been exposed to the insults of that ungrateful hypocrite." Those words excited the attention of the whole court, and armed four of his most resolute attendants to gratify their monarch's secret inclinations. The names of those knights and gentlemen of his household were Reginald Fitz Urse, William de Tracey, Hugh de Moreville, and Richard Brito, who immediately communicated their thoughts to each other, and bound themselves by an oath, to revenge their king's quarrel; when, se-

cretly retiring from court, they took shipping at different ports, and met the next day at the castle of Saltwoode, within six miles of Canterbury.

Some menacing expressions which they had dropped, and their sudden departure, gave the king reason to suspect their design. He therefore sent messengers to overtake and forbid them in his name, to commit any violence; but the orders arrived too late to prevent their fatal purpose. The conspirators, being joined by some assistants at the place of their meeting, proceeded to Canterbury, in all that haste which their sanguinary intentions required.

Advancing directly to Becket's house, and entering his apartments, they reproached him very fiercely for the rashness and insolence of his conduct; as if they had been willing to enjoy his terrors before they destroyed him. Becket, however, was not in the least surprised; but vindicated his actions with that zeal and resolution which nothing, probably, but the consciousness of his innocence could inspire. The conspirators felt the force of his replies; and were particularly enraged at a charge of ingratitude with which he accused three of them, who had been retained in his service. During that altercation, the time approached for Becket to assist at vespers, whither he went unguarded, the conspirators following, and preparing for their attempt. As soon, therefore, as the primate had reached the altar, when it is not improbable but he aspired at the glory of martyrdom, they all fell upon him, and having cloven his head by repeated blows, he dropped down dead before the shrine of St. Benedict, which was, in consequence, besmeared with his blood and brains. Thus died Thomas-a-Becket, one of the most staunch supporters of the prerogatives of the church, who, on that account, was speedily after raised to the rank of a saint, by the Romish See.

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**DECEMBER THE THIRTY-FIRST.**

*Discovery of Mary, Queen of Scotland's Great Platon*

*Designment, 1584.—Treaty of Commerce with America, 1806.*

Mary had, about this time, written a letter to Sir Francis Inglefield, urging him to hasten the execution of what she calls "The Great Plot or Designment," without hesitating on account of any danger in which it might involve her life, which she would most willingly part with, if by that sacrifice she could procure relief for so great a number of the oppressed children of the church. Instead, therefore, of hearkening to the overtures which the Scottish queen made, or granting any mitigation of the hardships of which she complained, Elizabeth resolved to take her out of the hands of the Earl of Shrewsbury, and to appoint Sir Amias Paulet and Sir Drue Drury to be her keepers. Shrewsbury had discharged his trust with great fidelity during fifteen years, but, at the same time, had treated Mary with gentleness and respect, and had always sweetened harsh commands by the humanity with which he put them in execution. The same politeness was not to be expected from men of an inferior rank, whose severe vigilance, perhaps, was their chief recommendation to that employment, and the only merit by which they could pretend to gain favor or preferment.

As James was no less eager than ever to deprive the banished nobles of Elizabeth's protection, he appointed the master of Gray his ambassador to the court of England, and intrusted him with the conduct of a negociation for that purpose. For this honor, he was indebted to the envy and jealousy of the Earl of Arran. Gray possessed all the talents of a courtier; a graceful person, an insinuating address, boundless ambition, and a restless and intriguing spirit.

During his residence in France, he had been admitted into the most intimate familiarity with the Duke of Guise, and, in order to gain his favour, had renounced the Protestant religion, and professed the utmost zeal for the captive queen, who carried on a secret correspondence with him, from which she expected great advantages. On his return into Scotland, he paid court to James with

extraordinary assiduity, and his accomplishments did not fail to make their usual impression on the king's heart. Arran, who had introduced him, began quickly to dread his growing favour; and flattering himself, that absence would efface any sentiments of tenderness which were forming in the mind of a young prince, pointed him out by his malicious praises, as the most proper person in the kingdom for an embassy of such importance; and contributed to raise him to that high dignity, in order to hasten his fall. Elizabeth, who had an admirable dexterity in discovering the proper instruments for carrying on her designs, endeavoured, by caresses, and by presents, to secure Gray to her interest. The former flattered his vanity, which was great; the latter supplied his profuseness, which was still greater. He abandoned himself without reserve to Elizabeth's direction, and not only undertook to retain the king under the influence of England, but acted as a spy upon the Scottish queen, and betrayed to her rival every secret that he could draw from her by his high pretensions of zeal in her service.

Gray's credit with the English court was extremely galling to the banished nobles. Elizabeth no longer thought of employing her power to restore them; she found it easier to govern Scotland by corrupting the king's favourites; and in compliance with Gray's solicitations, she commanded the exiles to leave the north of England, and to remove into the heart of the kingdom. This rendered it difficult for them to hold any correspondence with their partisans in Scotland, and almost impossible to return thither without her permission. Gray, by gaining a point which James had so much at heart, rivetted himself more firmly than ever in his favour; and, by acquiring greater reputation, became capable of serving Elizabeth with greater success.

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A treaty of commerce was ratified between Great Britain and the United States of North America.





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